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THE HEDGEHOG

ISSUE 258

THE CHASE: PART ONE



Signature

Welcome to Sonic's comic book adventures – A world unique & beyond what you know from the SEGA games! Where Sonic and his friends work to save the world from the forces of evil!

SONIC™

THE HEDGEHOG

WHO'S WHO



SONIC THE HEDGEHOG
WORLD HERO



PRINCESS SALLY ACORN
LEADER OF THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS



PROFS. PICKLE & CHUCK
PRECIOUS CARGO



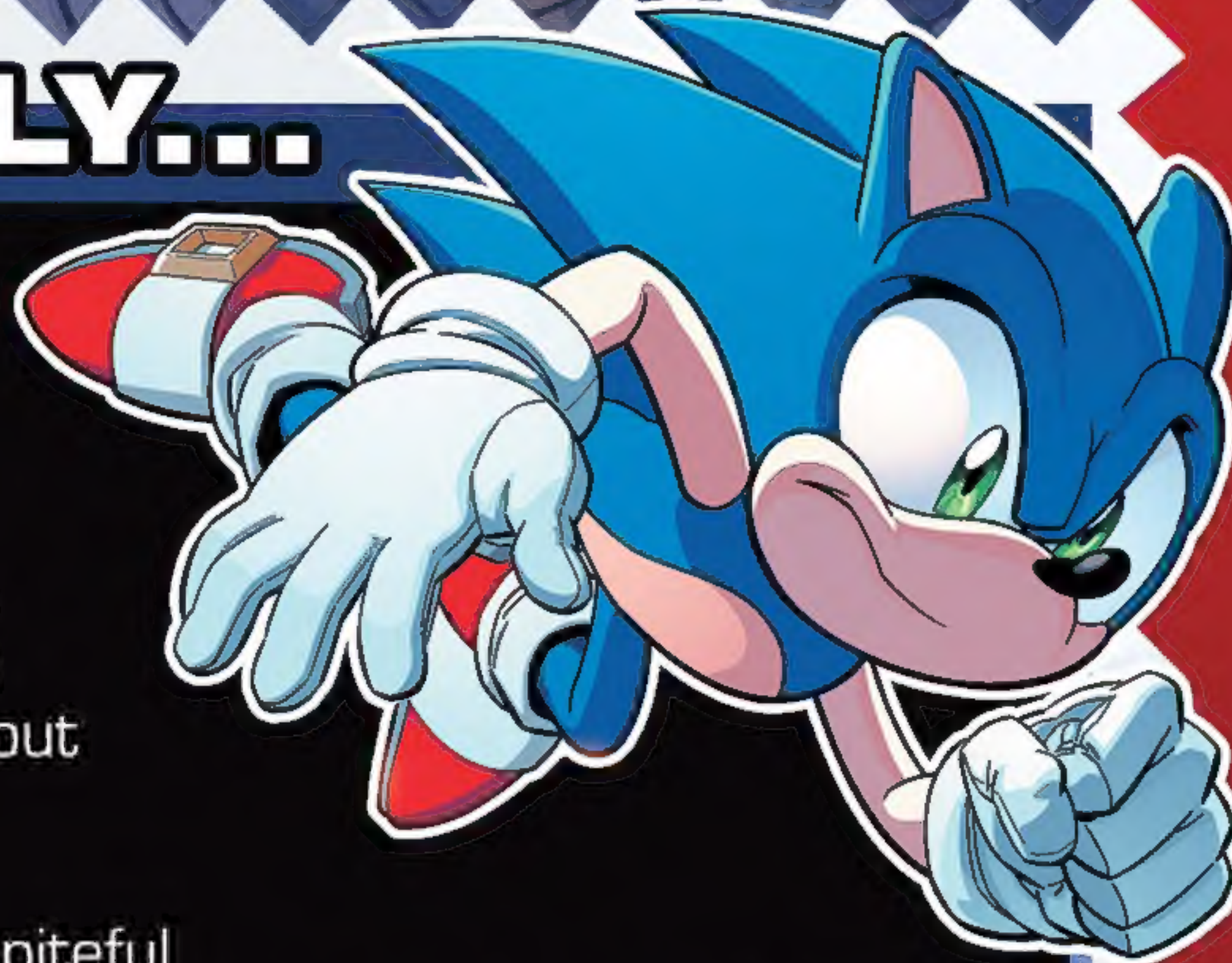
???

PREVIOUSLY...

PROFESSORS IN A PICKLE!

Sonic the Hedgehog and his heroic Freedom Fighter friends have saved the world countless times over. Now they might be out of their league.

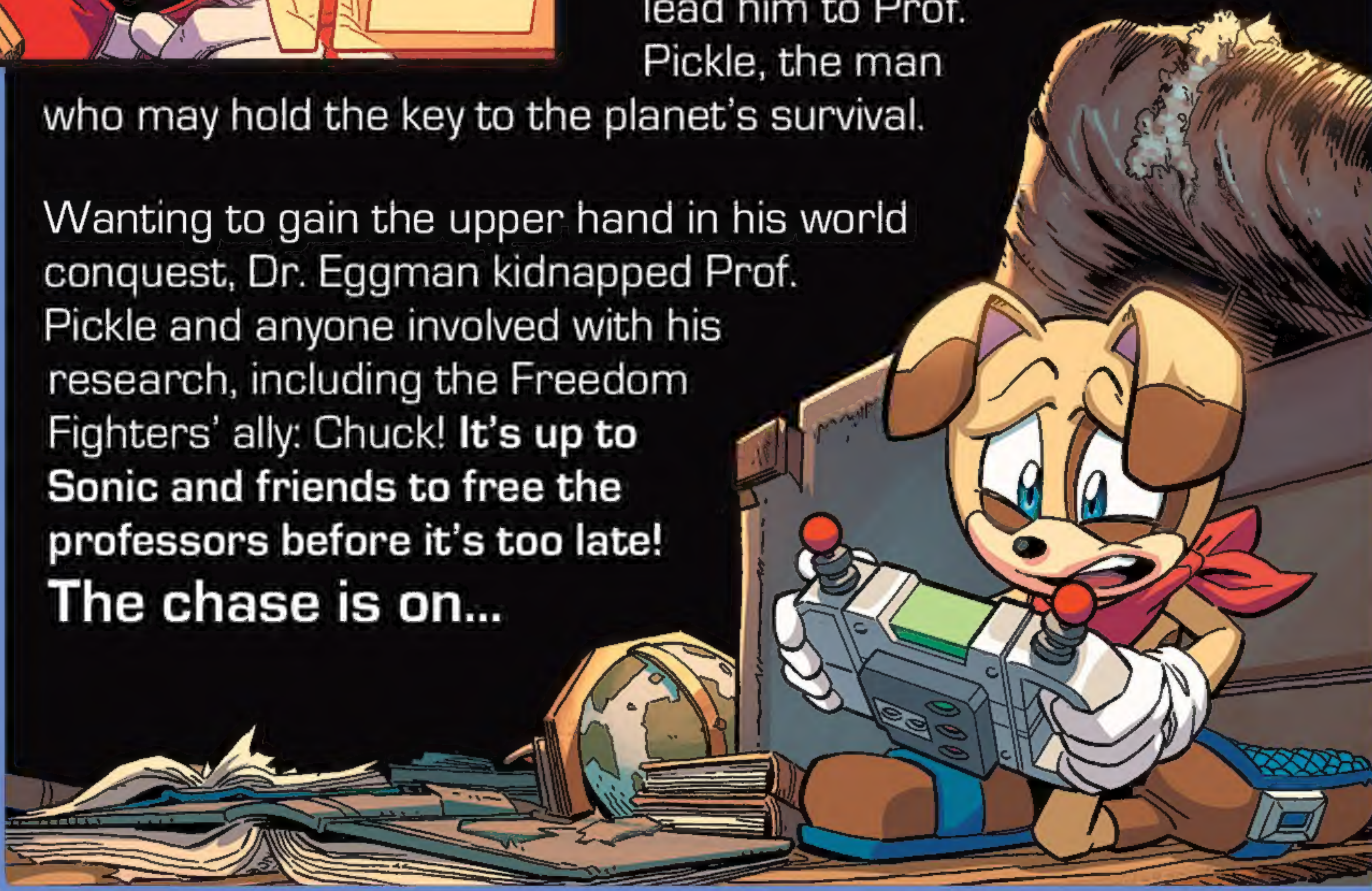
Thanks to a short-sighted and spiteful attack by Dr. Eggman, reality has been irreversibly changed. The chaotic energies at play pushed the world to the breaking point – and beyond!



The torn planet has mysteriously stabilized, with the broken pieces floating around the core of Sonic's world. Dr. Eggman researched the strange phenomena, which lead him to Prof. Pickle, the man

who may hold the key to the planet's survival.

Wanting to gain the upper hand in his world conquest, Dr. Eggman kidnapped Prof. Pickle and anyone involved with his research, including the Freedom Fighters' ally: Chuck! It's up to Sonic and friends to free the professors before it's too late! The chase is on...



SOLEANNA FOREST ZONE...

"HOURS AGO, DR. EGGMAN SENT A BADNIK HORDE TO SPAGONIA UNIVERSITY.

"THE BADNIKS RAIDED THE OFFICES FOR DOCUMENTS, SCIENTIFIC SAMPLES..."

WOO-HOO! HERE WE GO!

"...AND RESEARCHERS, THEY TOOK UNCLE CHUCK AND HIS COLLEAGUE ...PROF. PICKLE.

"THANKS TO THE ACCESS CODES I 'BORROWED' FROM THE DEATH EGG, * WE KNOW THEY'RE BEING TRANSPORTED FOR PICK-UP AT THE BULLET STATION IN RAIL CANYON ZONE.

"FREEDOM FIGHTERS -- WE ARE NOT LETTING EGGMAN GET AWAY WITH THIS.

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THE CHASE: PART ONE

*STH#256.

"TEAM FREEDOM WILL COVER THE RESCUE!"

AMY ROSE
HAMMER-
WIELDING
HEROINE

ANTOINE
SWORDSMAN
& PILOT

TAILS
YOUNG
GENIUS

"TAILS AND ANTOINE--
YOU'LL TAKE SONIC AND
AMY DOWN ON THE
TORNADO AND TWISTER.
YOU TWO WILL WHISK THE
PROFESSORS TO SAFETY!"

AHH...
THE WIND IN
MY SPINES...
IT'S ALMOST
LIKE WE'RE
GOING FAST--
HEH-HEH!

"PARDON,
BUT...WELL
ABOVE ZE
TREES,
OUI?!"

SONIC
SPEEDSTER

"SORRY, ANTOINE,
YOU NEED TO BE
WITHIN IMMEDIATE
STRIKING DISTANCE.
YOU AND TAILS ARE ACE
PILOTS, I KNOW YOU
CAN HANDLE IT."

"I'LL LEAD TEAM
FIGHTERS TO
TAKE CONTROL
OF THE TRAIN AND
FIND OUT WHERE THE
POOR PROFESSORS
ARE BEING HELD."

SALLY ACORN
TEAM LEADER

"SURE, IF
YOU
WANT
TO DO
THINGS
THE
SAFE,
SLOW
WAY...!"

ROTOR
BATTLE-
MECHANIC

BUNNIE
CYBORG

THEN STAND
BACK, SUGAH.
AH'LL MAKE US
A WAY IN!

NO GOOD!
THERE'S NO
HATCH CONTROL,
AND THIS
DOESN'T HAVE
ENOUGH JUICE
TO CUT THROUGH
THE ARMOR.

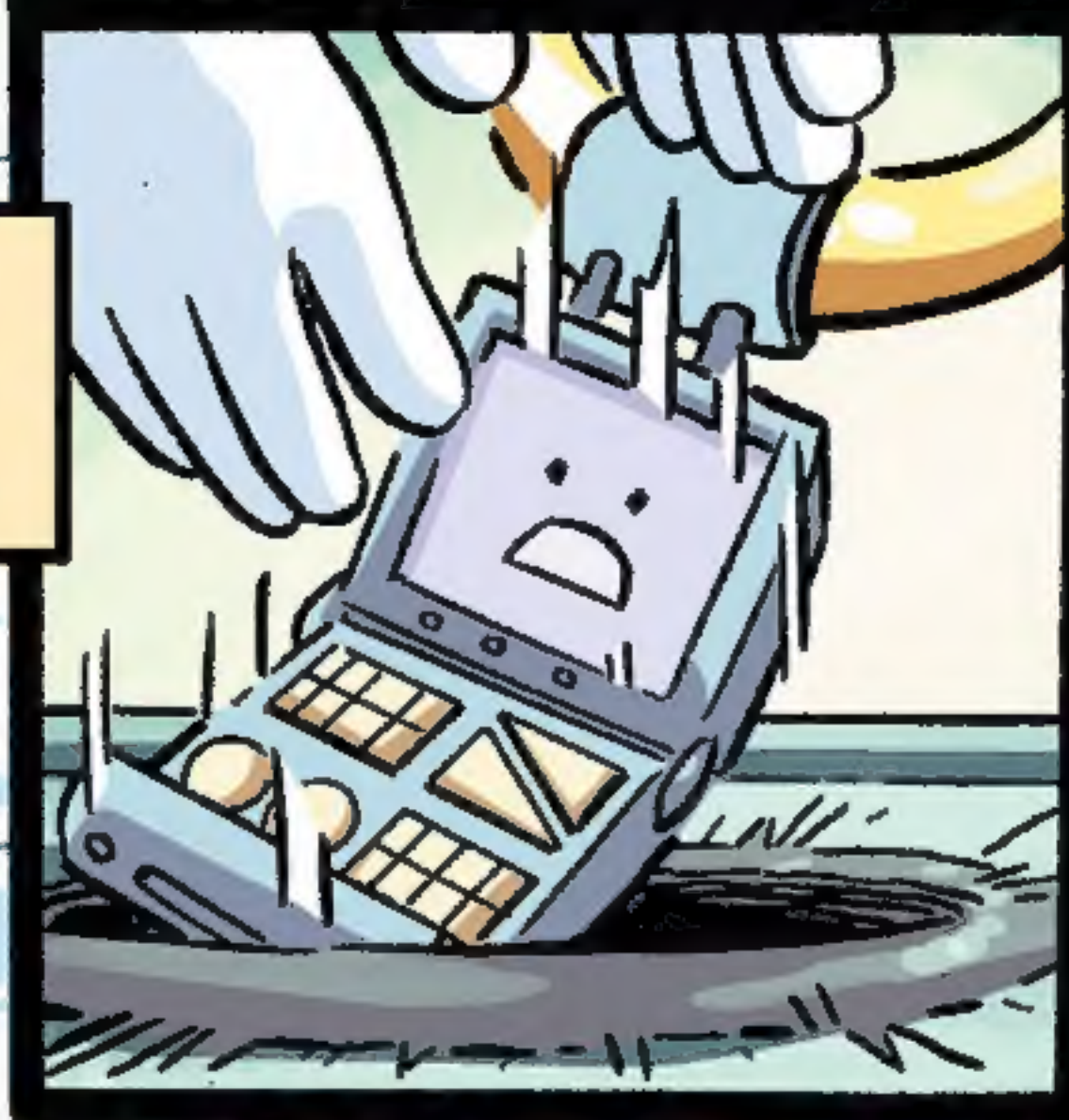


...HUH...WELL, THAT'S
EMBARRASSIN'...



NOT TO WORRY,
BUNNIE. WE CAN
MAKE THIS
WORK.

NICOLE
HAND-HELD
COMPUTER...



GENTLY,
PLEASE. MY
COMPO-
NENTS ARE
ONE-OF-A-
KIND.

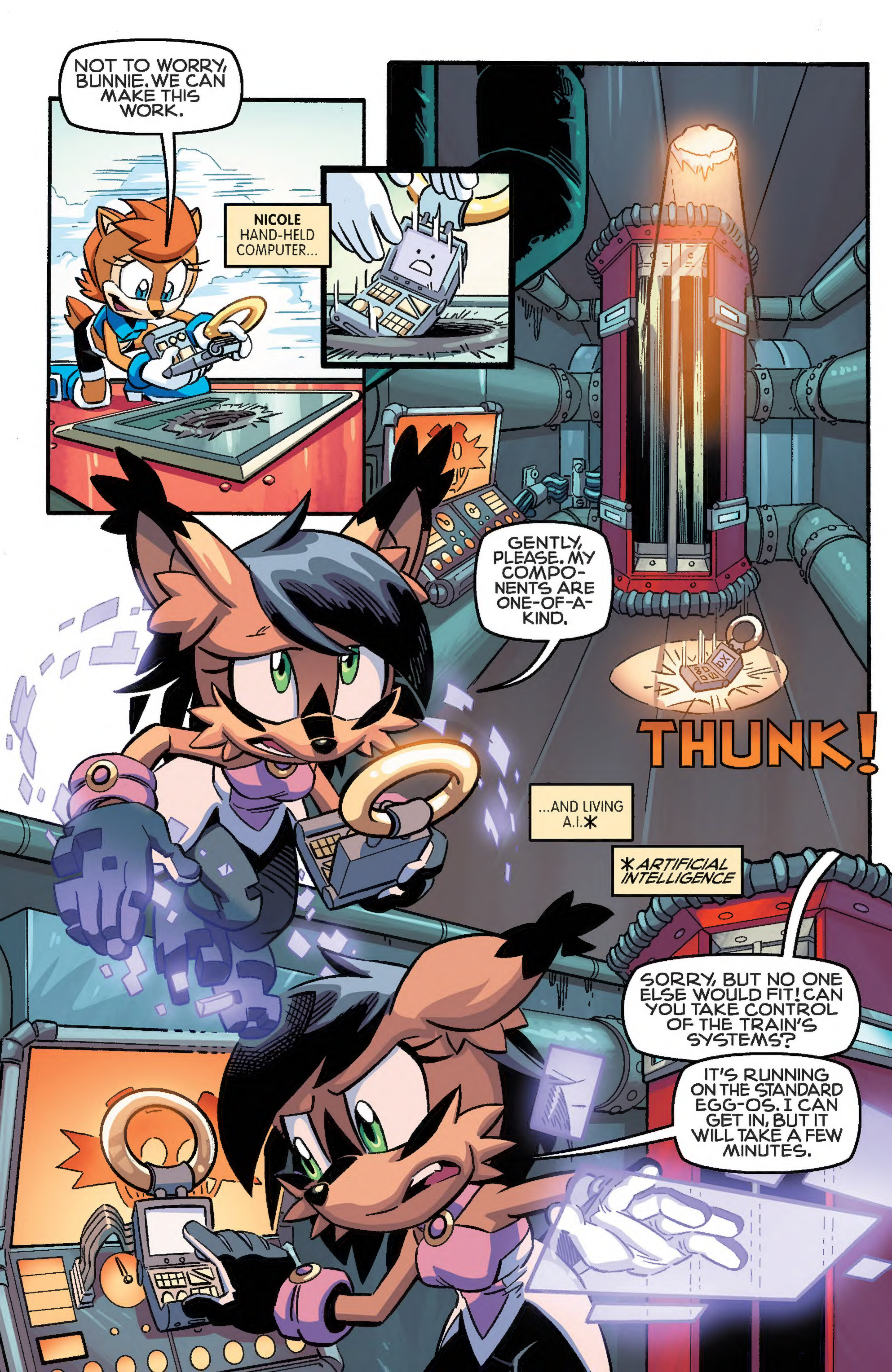
THUNK!

...AND LIVING
A.I.*

*ARTIFICIAL
INTELLIGENCE

SORRY, BUT NO ONE
ELSE WOULD FIT! CAN
YOU TAKE CONTROL
OF THE TRAIN'S
SYSTEMS?

IT'S RUNNING
ON THE STANDARD
EGG-OS. I CAN
GET IN, BUT IT
WILL TAKE A FEW
MINUTES.



HURRY.
WE DON'T
KNOW WHAT
THIS THING
HAS FOR
DEFENSES.

I THINK
I HAVE
AN IDEA.

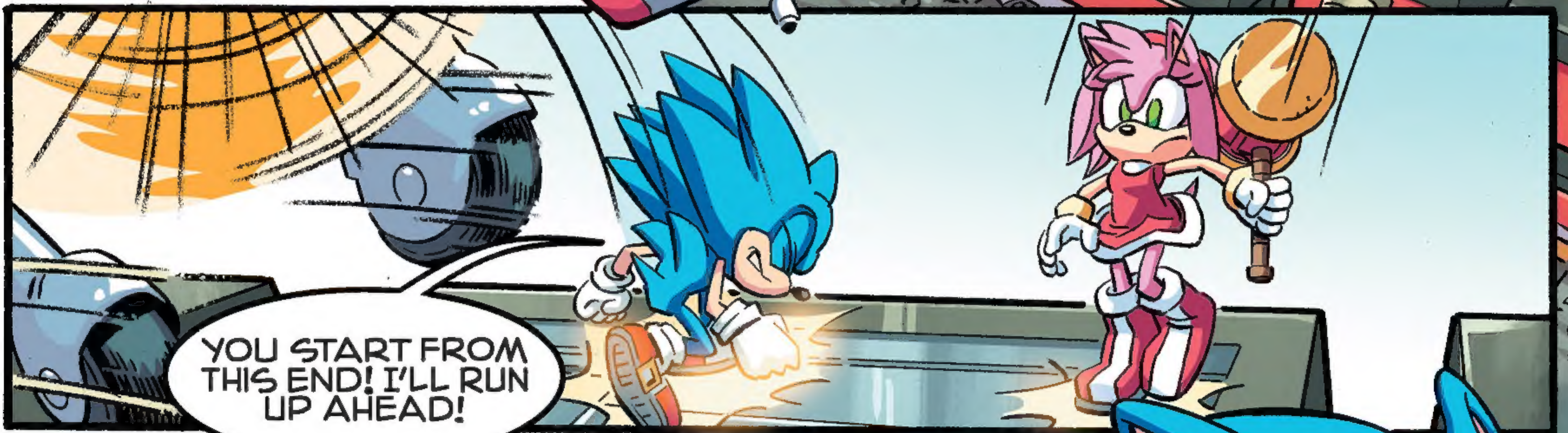
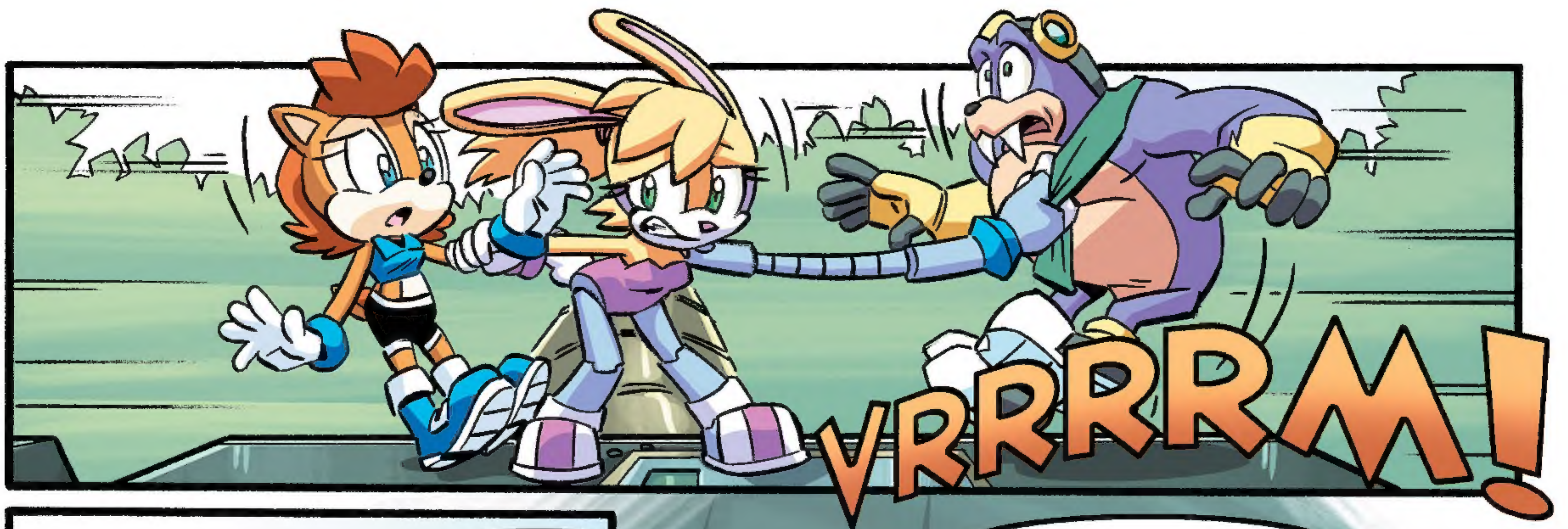
E-106 ETA
HORDE
COMMANDER

PSST

KA-THUNK!

I-I DON'T
SUPPOSE
YOU'RE ONE
OF THOSE
ROGUE
BADNIKS
ON OUR
SIDE...?

SMASH!



VRRRRM!

TERRIBLY SORRY, CHARLES. I'M AFRAID I LOST MY BALANCE FOR A MOMENT.

MMPH! NOT YOUR FAULT, DILLON! THE TRAIN LURCHED!

OOF!

PROF. PICKLE
HE'S BRILLIANT--
NO, REALLY!

PROF. CHARLES
A.K.A. "UNCLE
CHUCK"

IN FACT, IT FEELS LIKE WE'RE ACCELERATING TO DANGEROUS SPEEDS.

THESE ACCOMMODATIONS ARE BEASTLY! AND I ORDERED MY LUNCH HOURS AGO! HONESTLY, HOW DIFFICULT IS IT TO PREPARE A PROPER CUCUMBER SANDWICH, I ASK YOU?

HMPH! I SHALL HAVE A WORD WITH THE CONDUCTOR. THIS IS NO WAY TO RUN A RAILROAD.

CALM DOWN, OLD FRIEND. HOPEFULLY, THIS MEANS WE'RE ABOUT TO BE RESCUED.

I SHOULD HOPE SO! COME, HELP ME FIND THE CALL BUTTON FOR THE STEWARD.

KA-THUNK!

GIVE ME YOUR HAND!

E-100 UNIT!

I'M UNDER ATTACK!

GET ME OUT OF HERE!



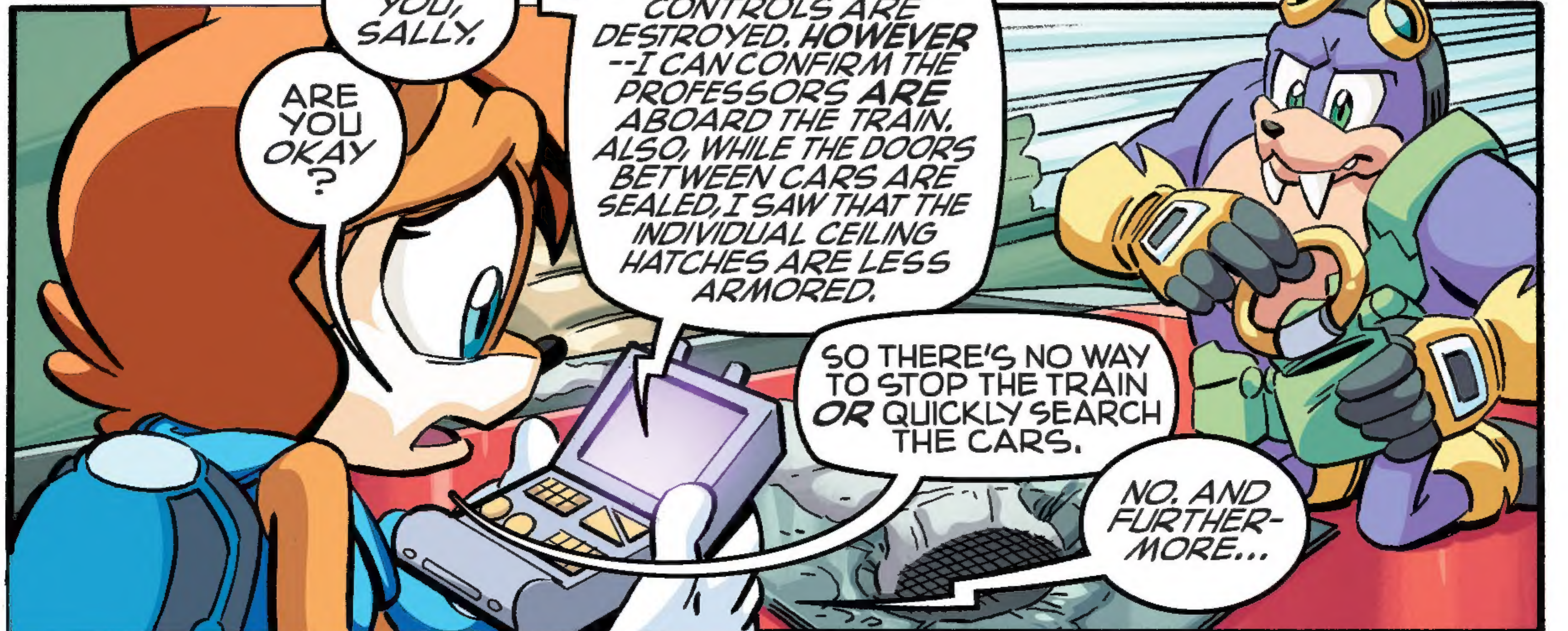
THANK YOU, SALLY.

ARE YOU OKAY?

I'M FINE-- BUT I'M AFRAID THE TRAIN'S CONTROLS ARE DESTROYED. HOWEVER --I CAN CONFIRM THE PROFESSORS ARE ABOARD THE TRAIN. ALSO, WHILE THE DOORS BETWEEN CARS ARE SEALED, I SAW THAT THE INDIVIDUAL CEILING HATCHES ARE LESS ARMORED.

SO THERE'S NO WAY TO STOP THE TRAIN OR QUICKLY SEARCH THE CARS.

NO. AND FURTHER-MORE...



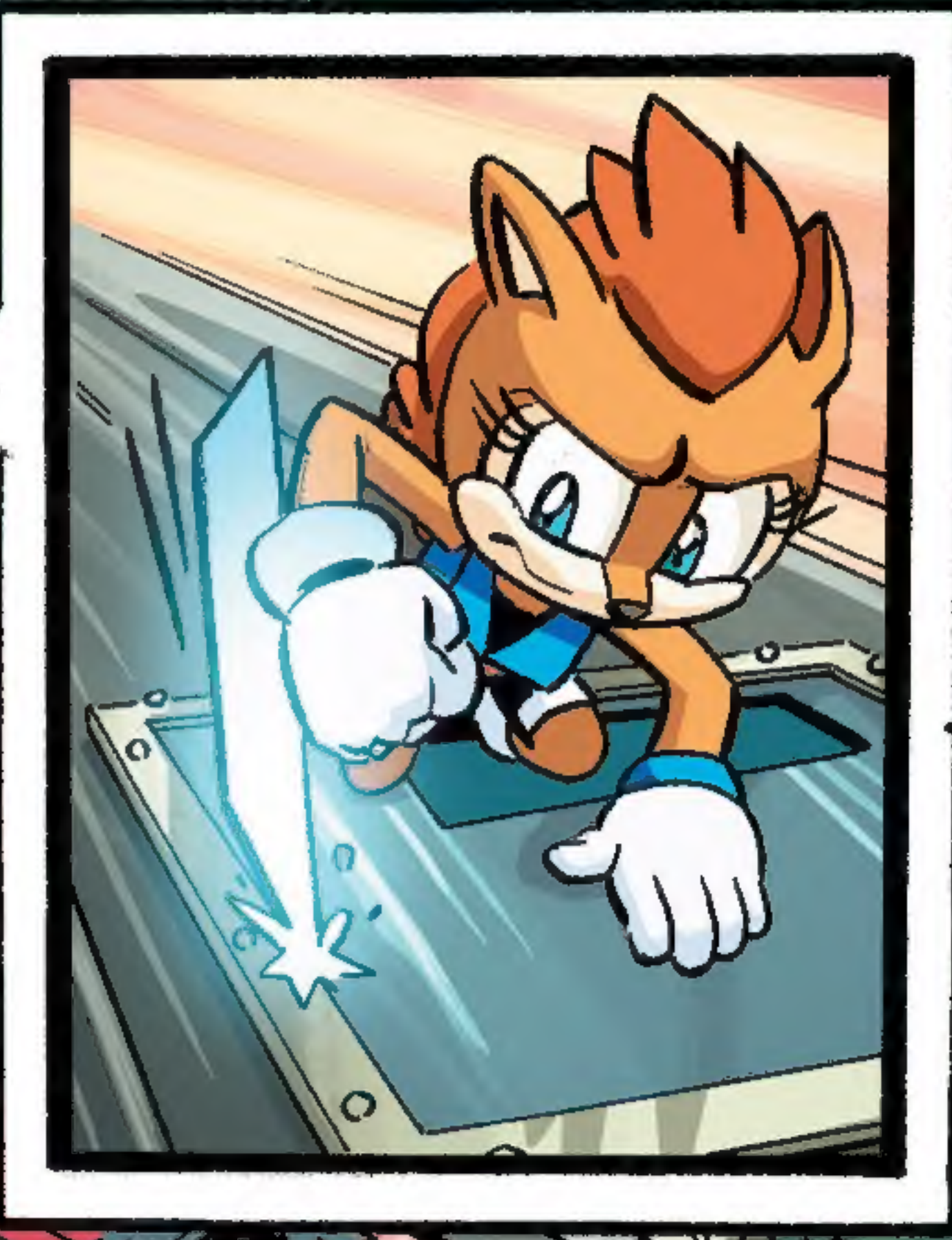
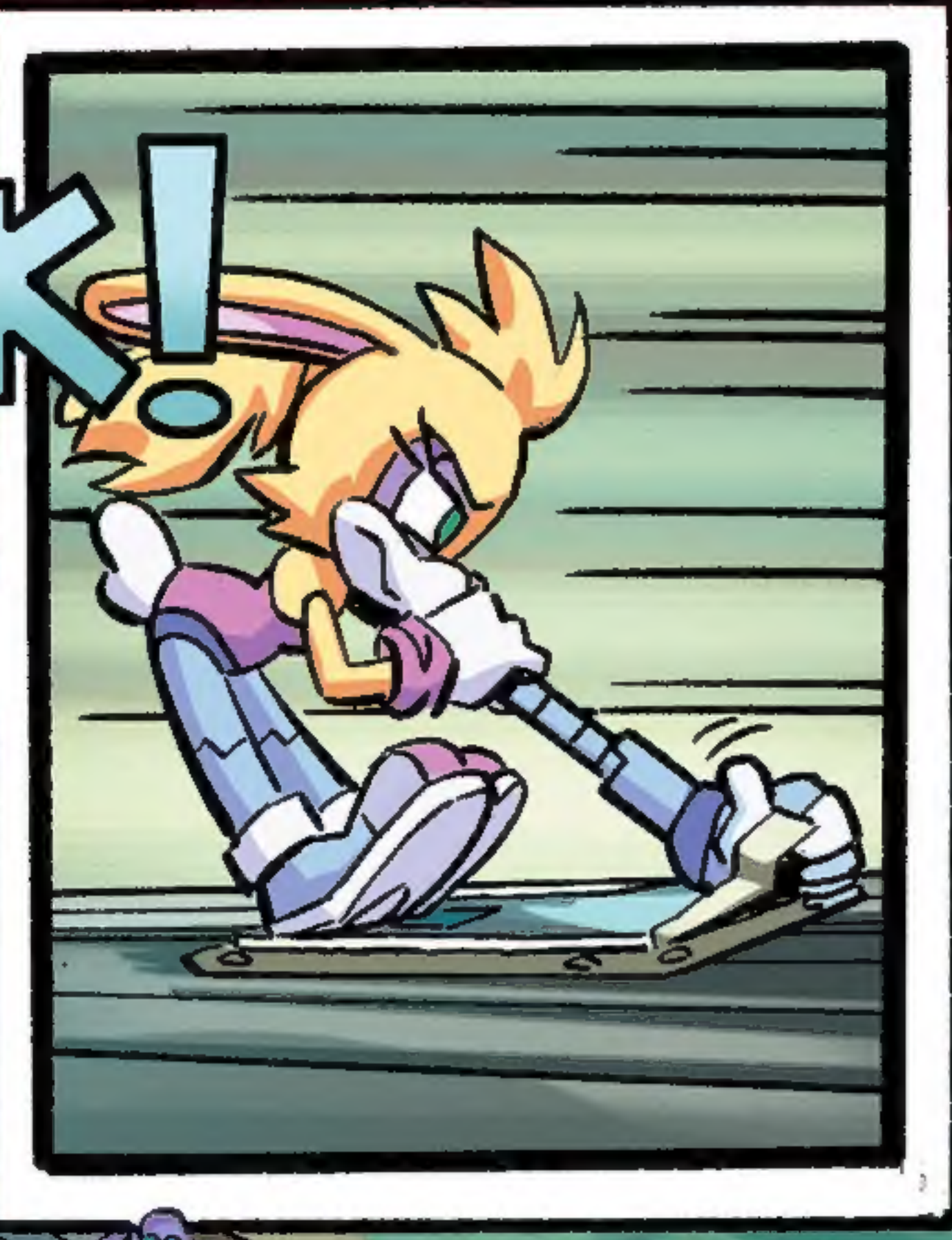
...THE E-100 UNIT DOES NOT SEEM TO CARE ABOUT COLLATERAL DAMAGE.

SO MUCH FOR FINESSE. WE'RE GOING CAR-BY-CAR NOW, TEAM FIGHTERS!

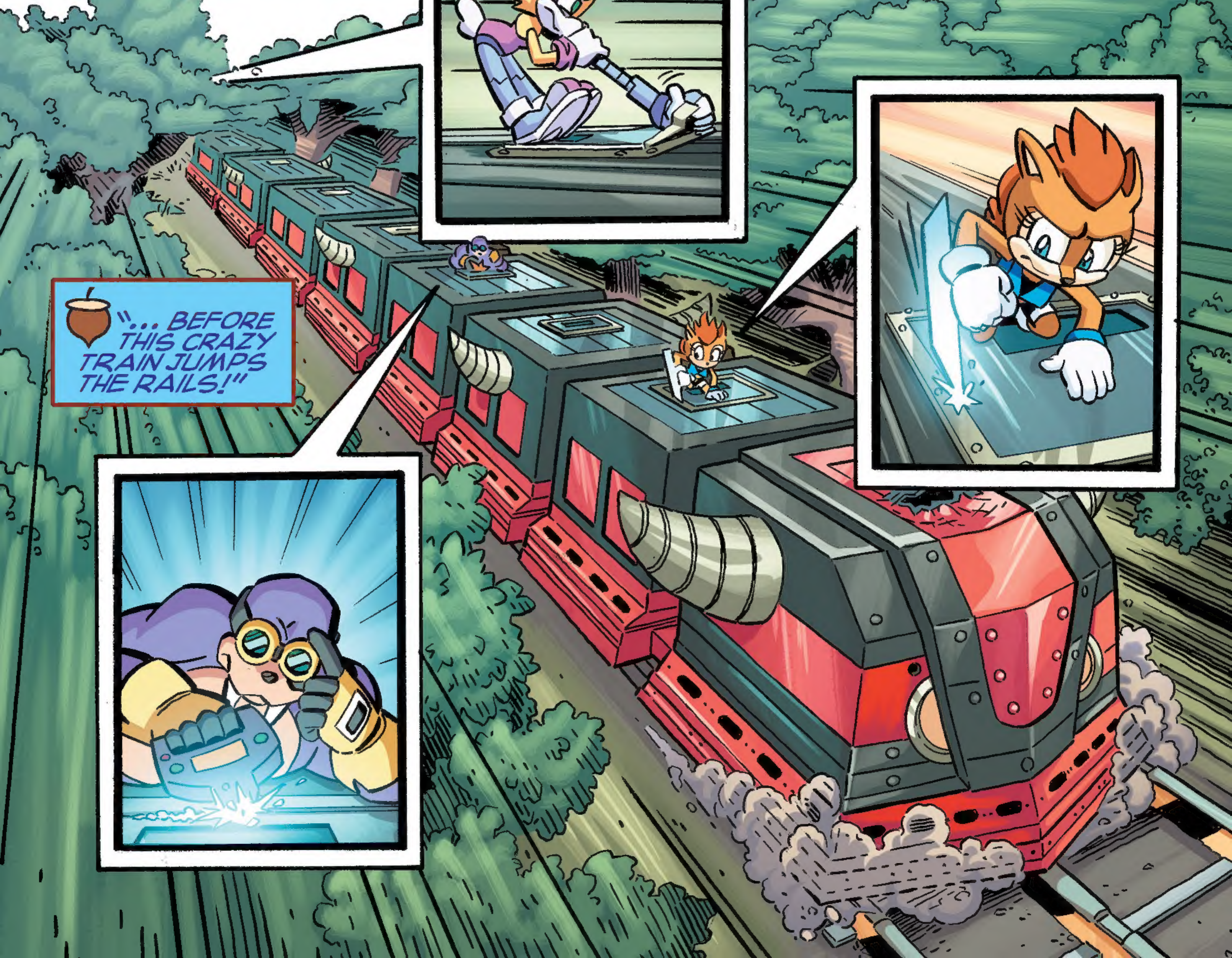
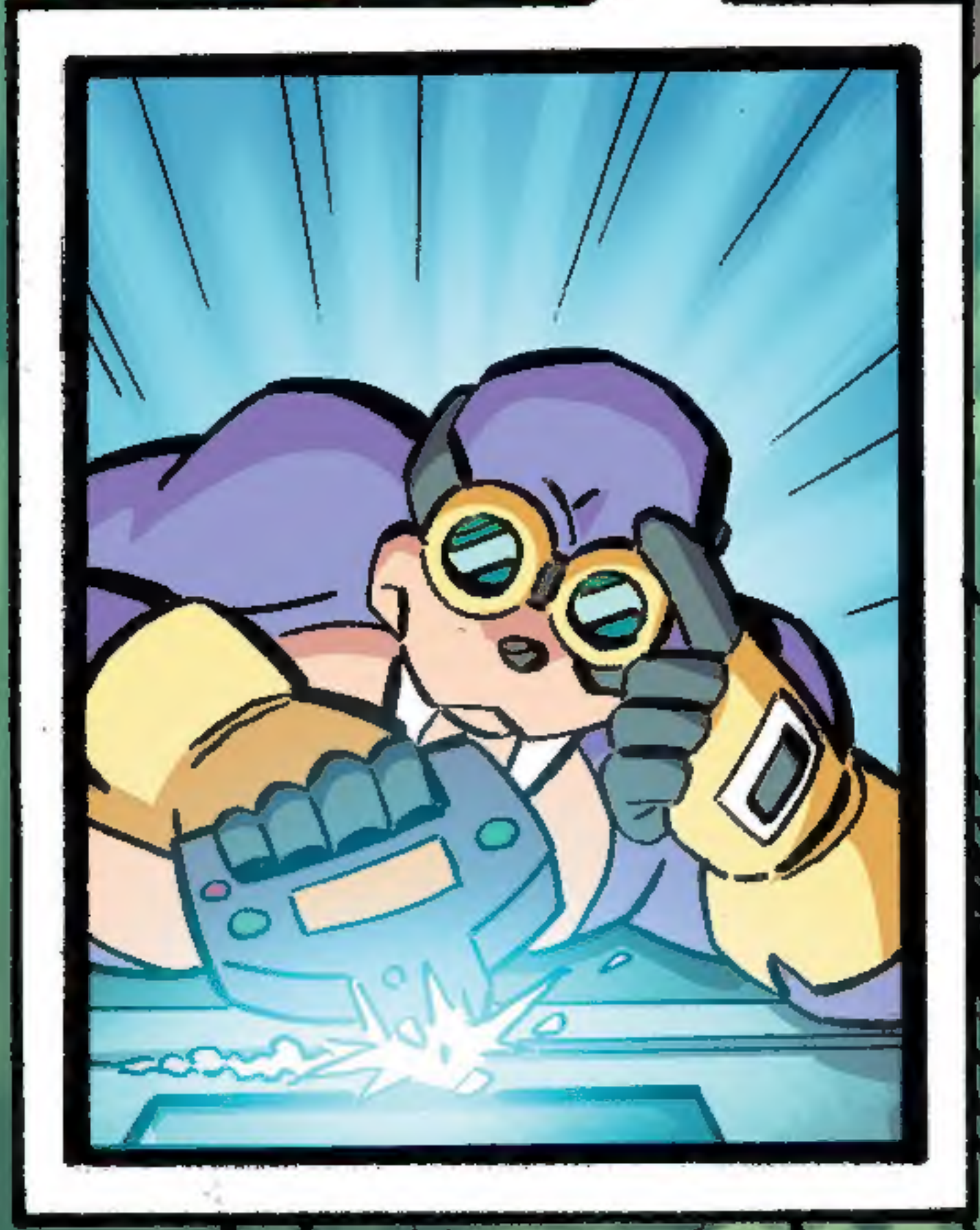


HUSTLE! WE NEED TO FIND THE PROFESSORS AND GET OUT OF HERE BEFORE THE BADNIK GETS US, OR...

KA-THUNK!

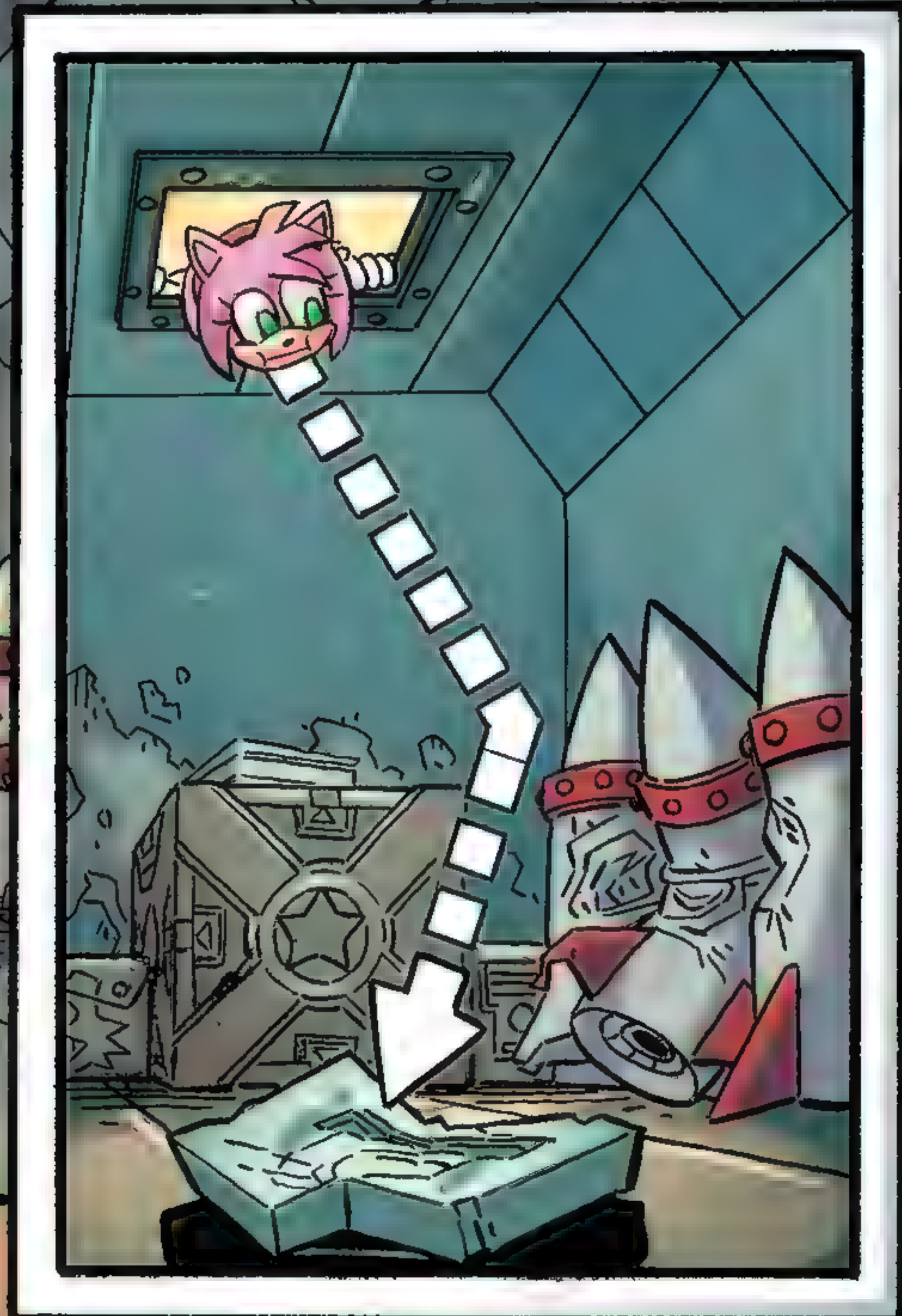


... BEFORE THIS CRAZY TRAIN JUMPS THE RAILS!!



HA!
OPEN
SAYS-A
ME!

PIKO!



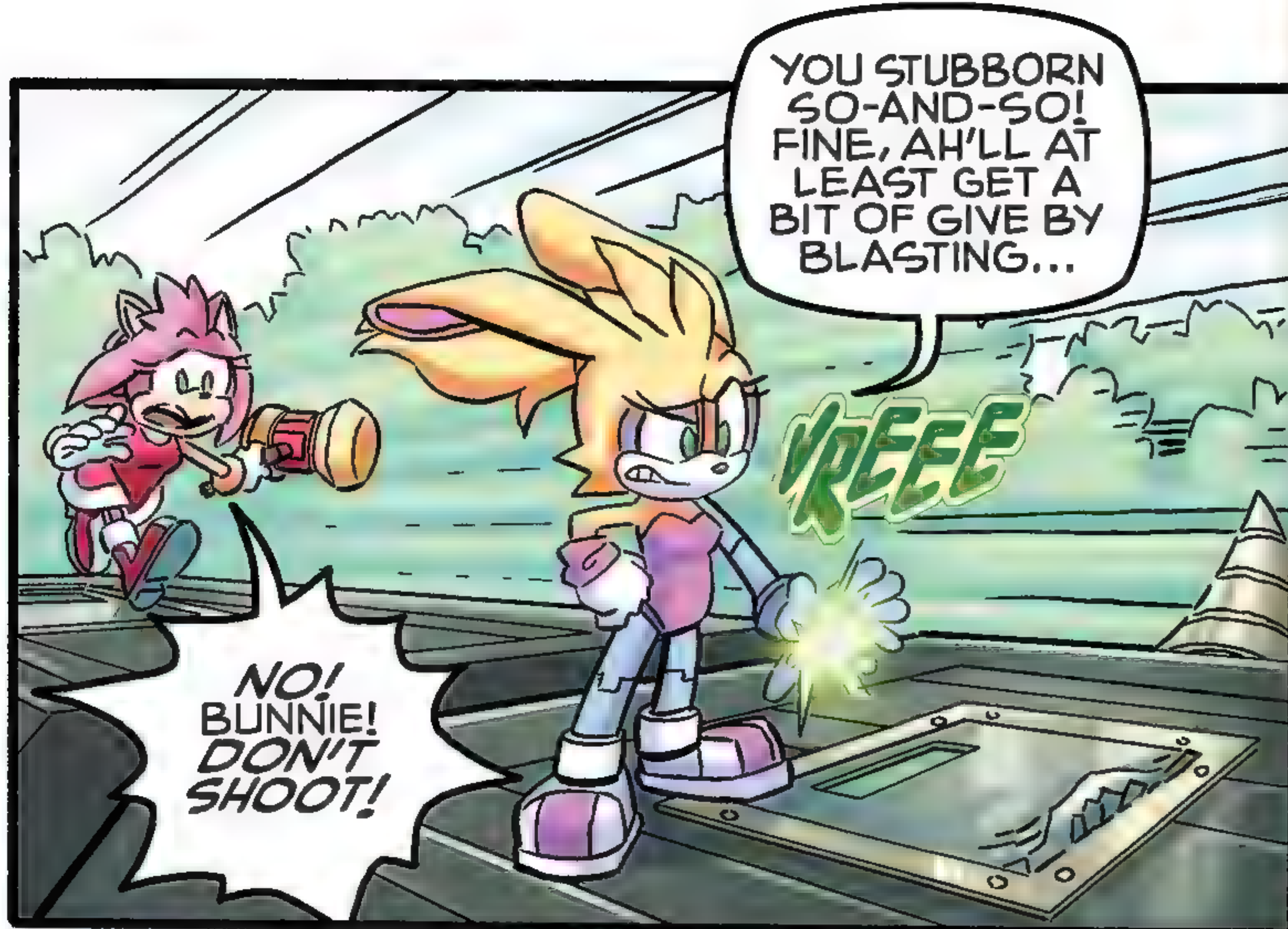
O-O-KAY! WE'RE GOING
TO BE *MUCH* MORE DELICATE
WITH THE NEXT CAR! YES!
AND WE DON'T NEED TO TELL
ANYONE THAT WE NEARLY
BLEW US ALL UP!

DO
WE
?

NO! OF
COURSE
NOT!

HA
HA HA-
ARGH...





YOU STUBBORN SO-AND-SO! FINE, AH'LL AT LEAST GET A BIT OF GIVE BY BLASTING...

NO! BUNNIE! DON'T SHOOT!

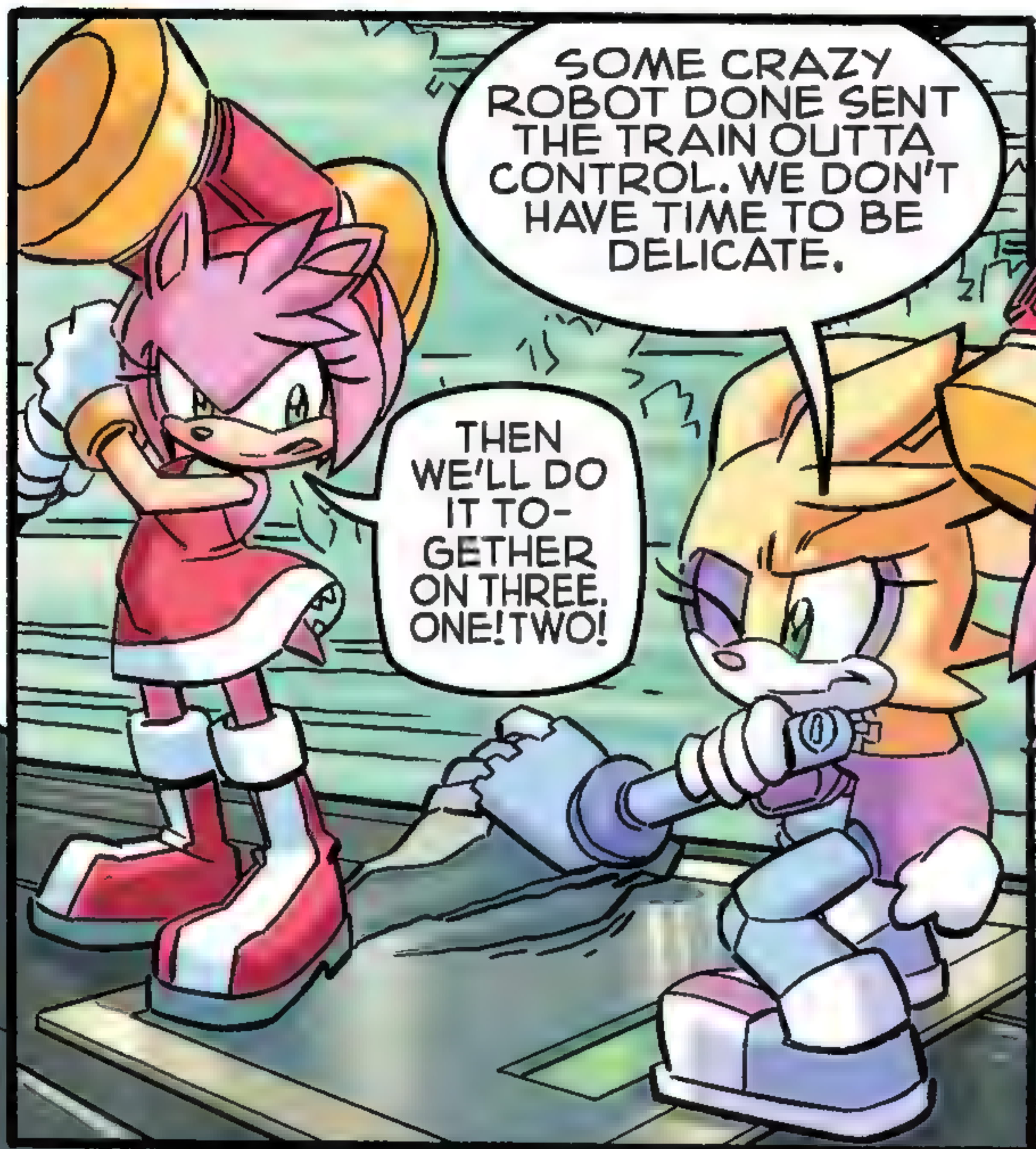
VREEE



I JUST CAME FROM A CAR FULL OF MISSILES!

OH, MAH STARS! AH COULD'VE BLOWN US ALL UP!

DON'T... DON'T BEAT YOURSELF UP OVER IT.



SOME CRAZY ROBOT DONE SENT THE TRAIN OUTTA CONTROL. WE DON'T HAVE TIME TO BE DELICATE.

THEN WE'LL DO IT TOGETHER ON THREE. ONE! TWO!



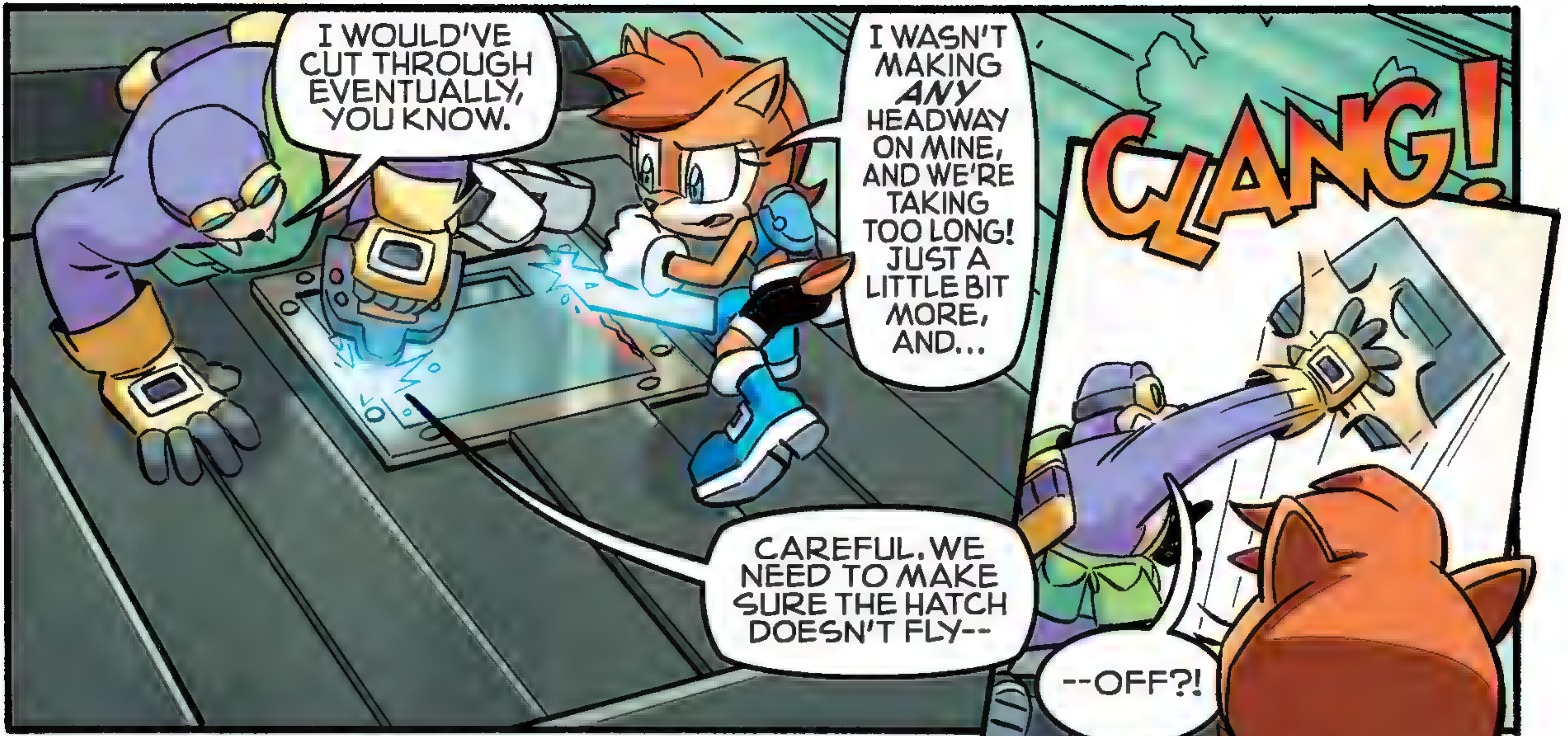
THREE!

PIKO!



SHOOT! NOTHIN' BUT FUEL AND SUPPLIES!

ON TO THE NEXT CAR, THEN!



I WOULD'VE CUT THROUGH EVENTUALLY, YOU KNOW.

I WASN'T MAKING ANY HEADWAY ON MINE, AND WE'RE TAKING TOO LONG! JUST A LITTLE BIT MORE, AND...

CAREFUL, WE NEED TO MAKE SURE THE HATCH DOESN'T FLY--

--OFF?!

CRASH!



NICE CATCH!

YEAH, LET'S NOT BRAIN SOMEONE FURTHER DOWN OR TAKE OUT ONE OF THE PLANES WITH A FLYING CHUNK OF METAL.



BRR ...NO GOOD.

FOOD SUPPLIES-- EGGMAN ONLY!

JUNK FOOD

JUNKIER FOOD

EPIC SANDWICH INGREDIENT

SAVE THE DATE!



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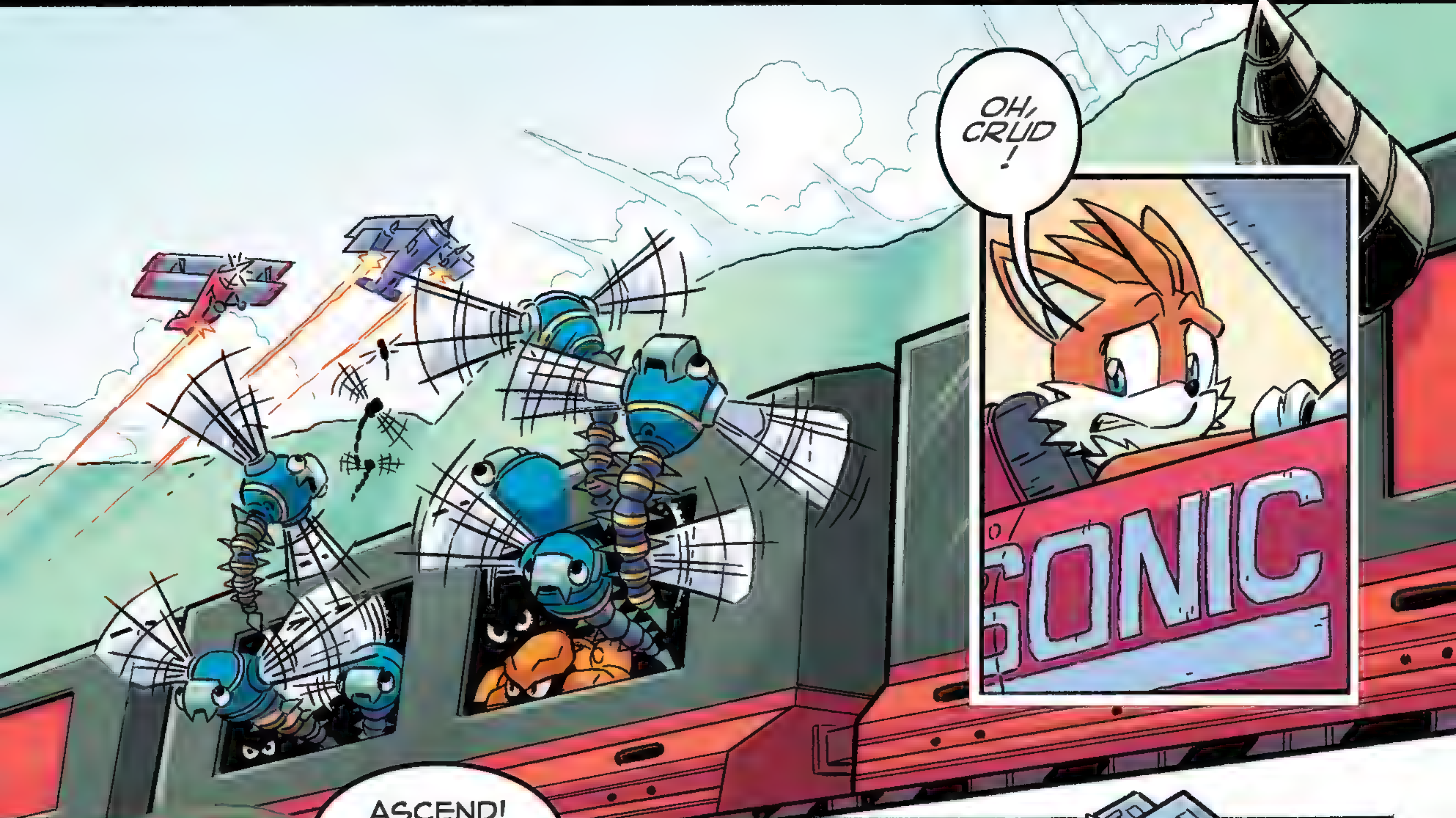
SMASHIN' INTO RANDOM CARS!
SMASHIN' INTO RANDOM CARS!

--IN THE WRONG CAR.

I'VE GOT A GOOD FEELING ABOUT THIS ONE!
HOLD ON, CHUCK!
I'M--

MY BAD! YOU GUYS CAN GO BACK TO SLEEP ...OR STAND BY... OR WHATEVER IT IS BADNIKS DO. I KNOW THE WAY OUT, SO I'LL JUST--





OH, CRUD!

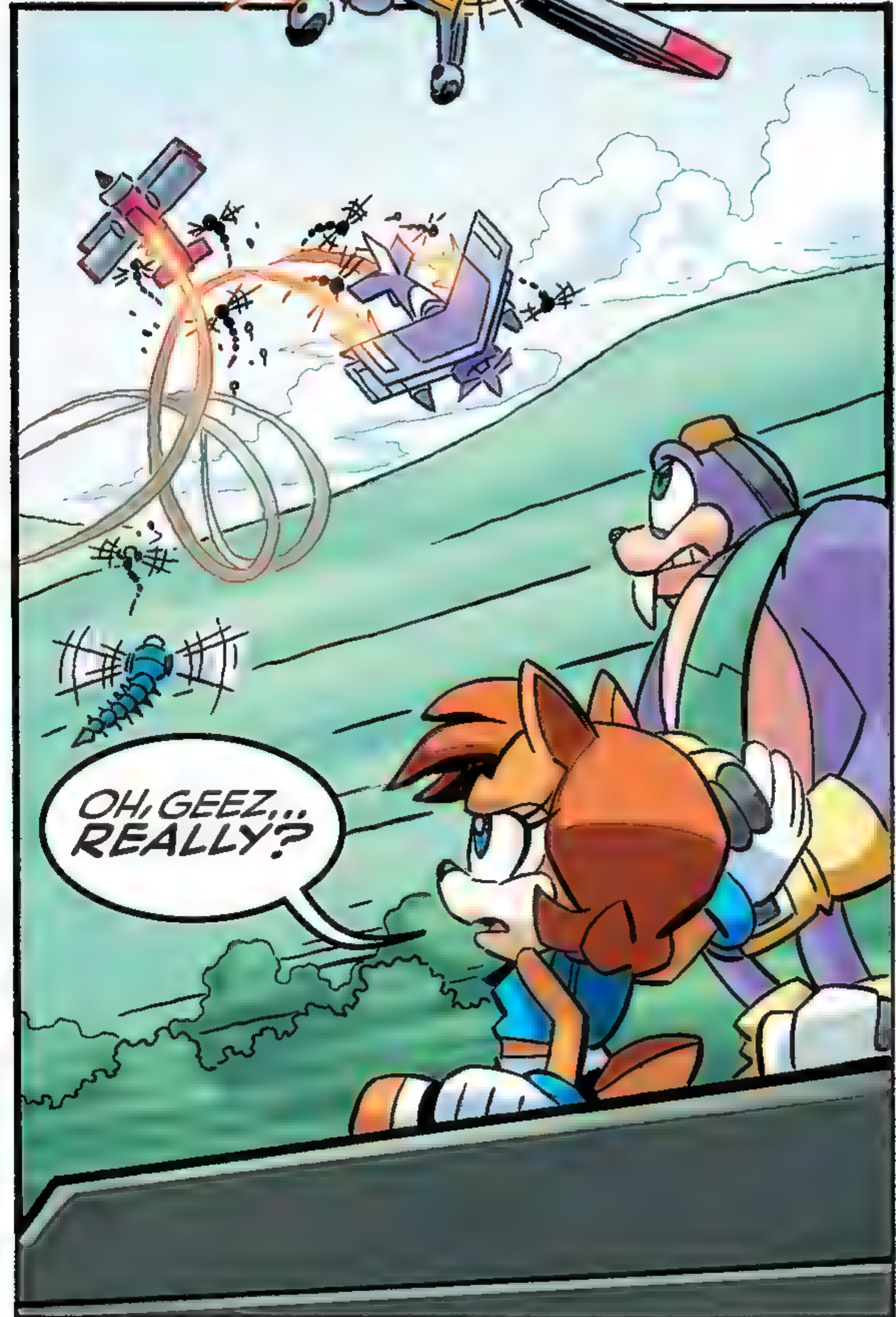


SONIC



ASCEND!
EVASIVE
MANEUVERS!

GYEEP!



OH, GEEZ...
REALLY?



BUNNIE!
HELP THE
TORNADO
AND TWISTER
WITH AIR
SUPPORT!

AH'M
ON MY
WAY!



AMY! MOVE UP AND HELP US WITH THE BADNIKS!

WHAT?!

REMIND ME AGAIN WHY I DIDN'T HAVE OMOCHAO AND T-PUP COORDINATING COMMS?

BECAUSE THEY COULDN'T FLY FAST ENOUGH TO KEEP UP WITH THE TRAIN.

RIGHT, REMIND ME TO GET YOU AND TAILS TO BUILD US SOME HEAD SETS BEFORE THE NEXT MISSION.

CAN WE WORRY ABOUT THIS MISSION *FIRST* ?!

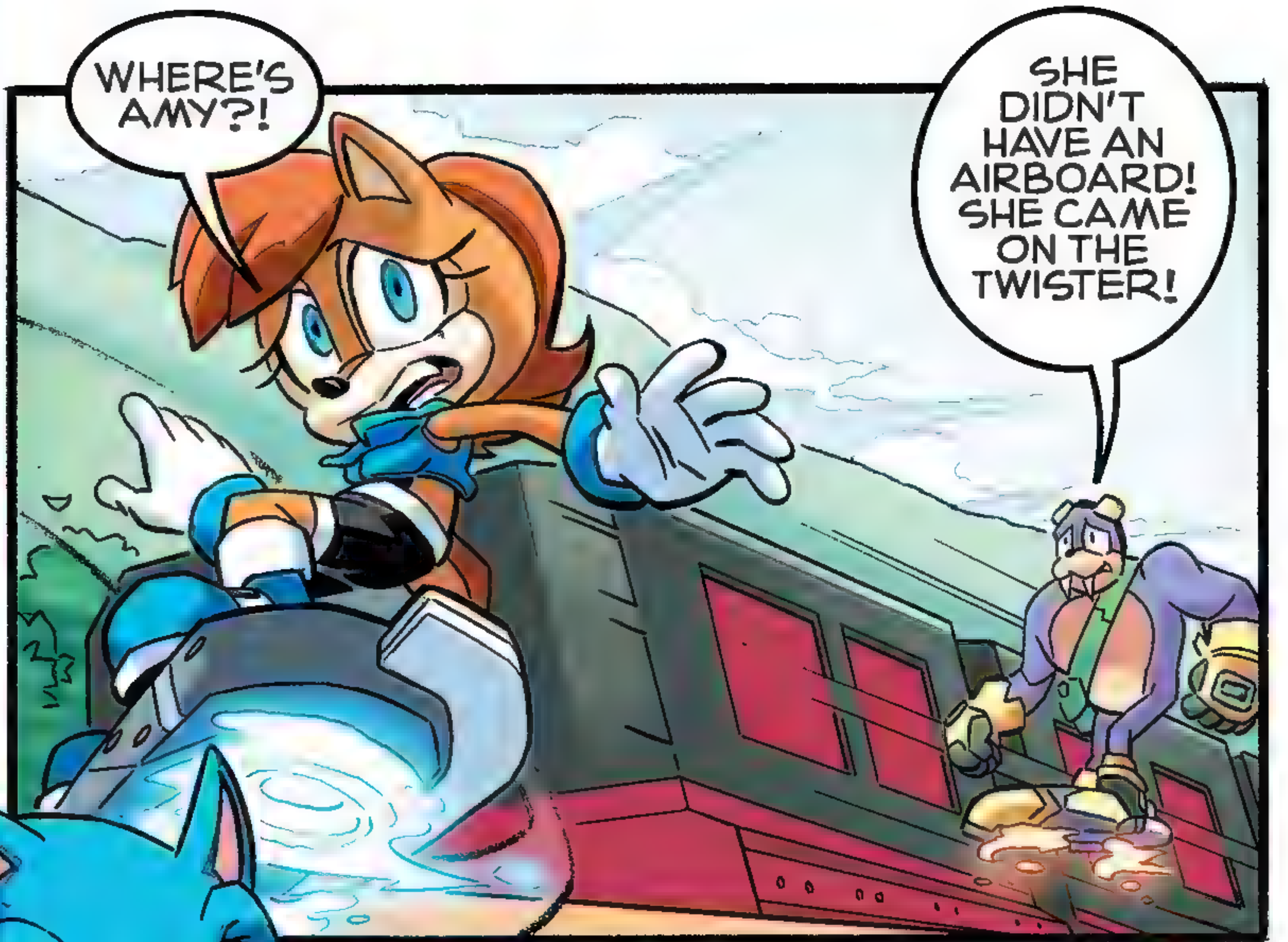
PIKO!

PIKO!

PIKO!

NOW! *≡HUFF≡* WHAT DID YOU *≡HUFF≡* WANT?





WHERE'S AMY?!

SHE DIDN'T HAVE AN AIRBOARD! SHE CAME ON THE TWISTER!



AND... ONCE AGAIN ...I SAVE THE DAY!

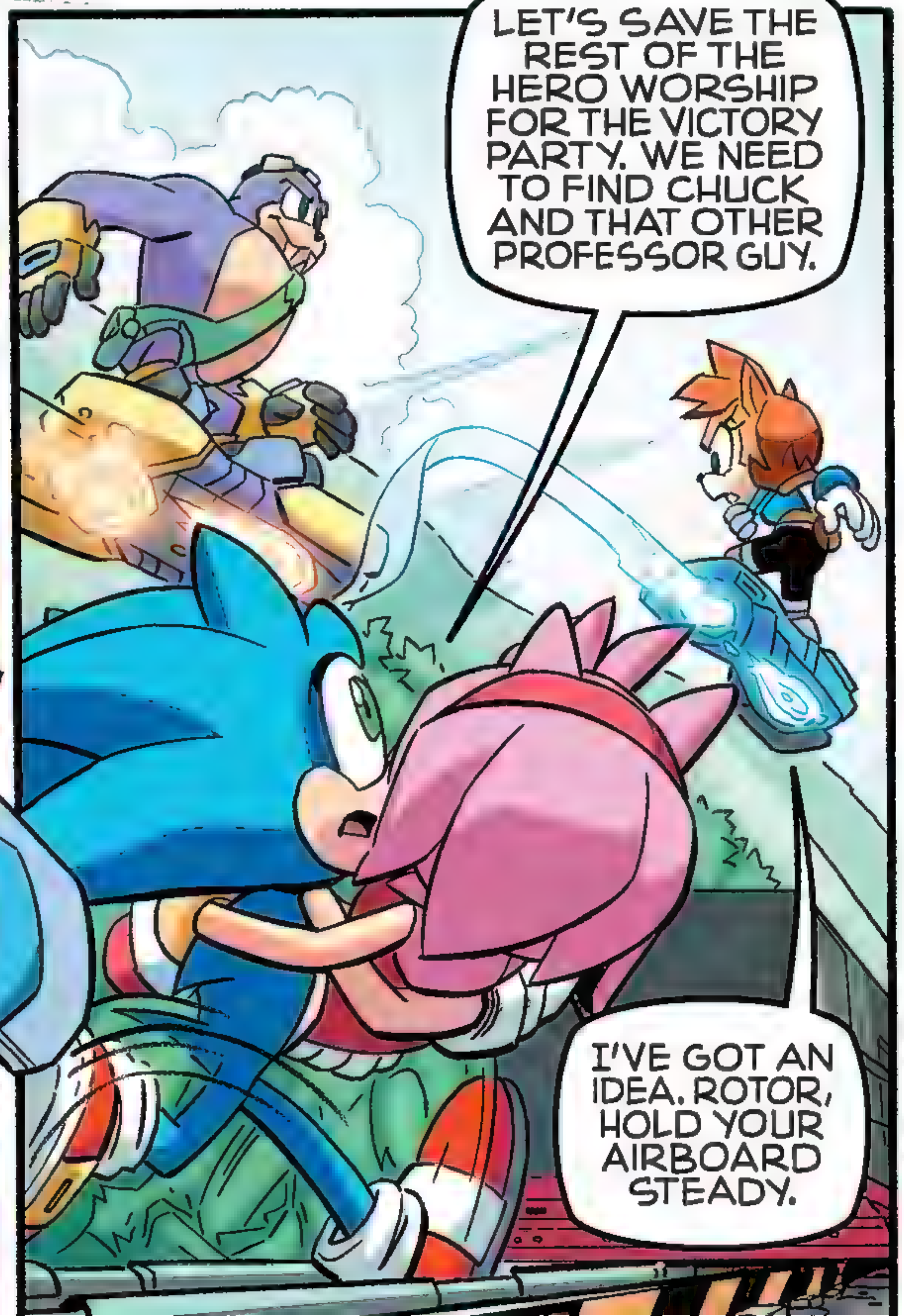


OH, THANK GOODNESS...

NICE!

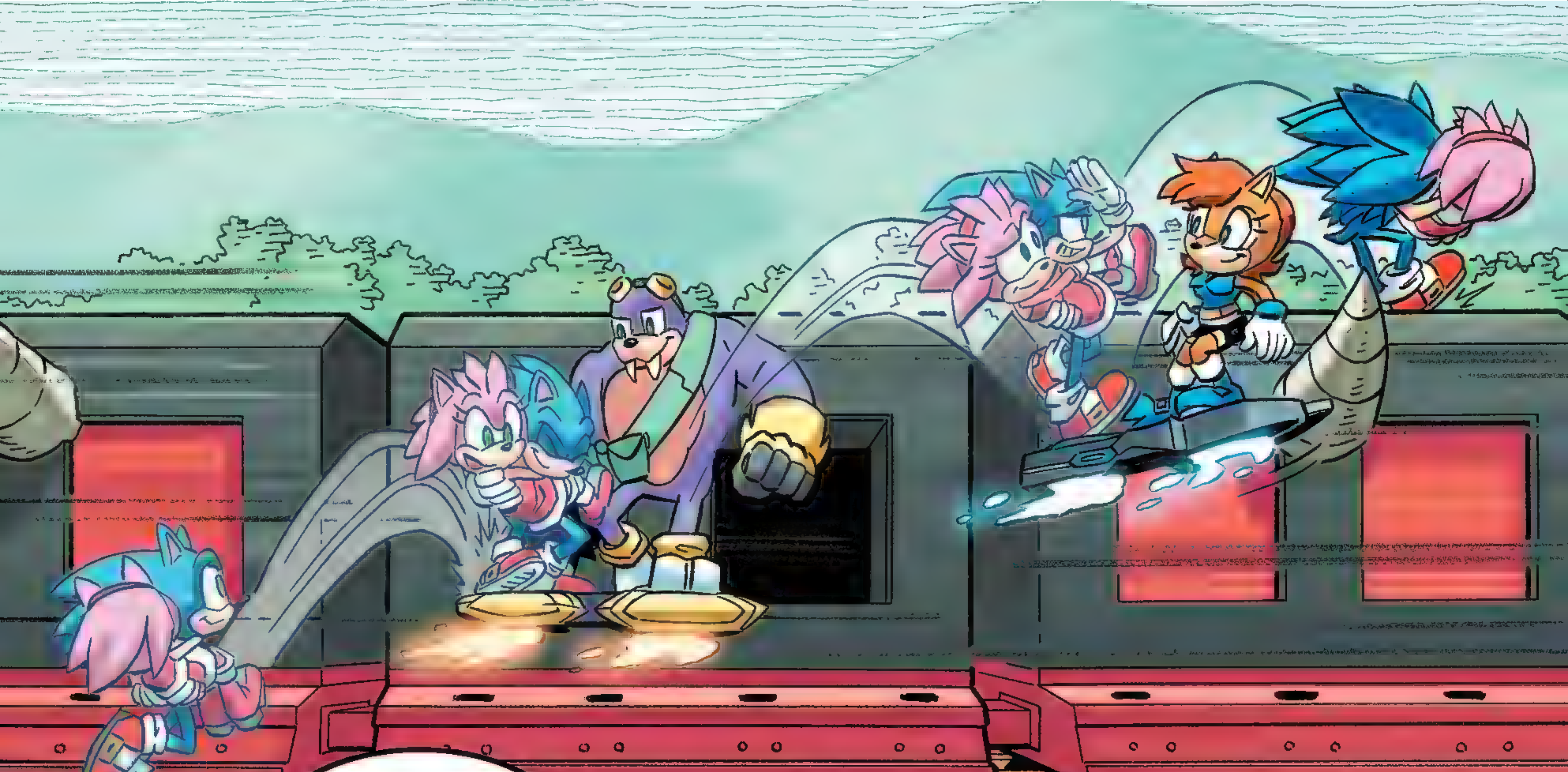
OH, THANK YOU, SONIC!

YEAH-YEAH-YEAH, I'M AWESOME!



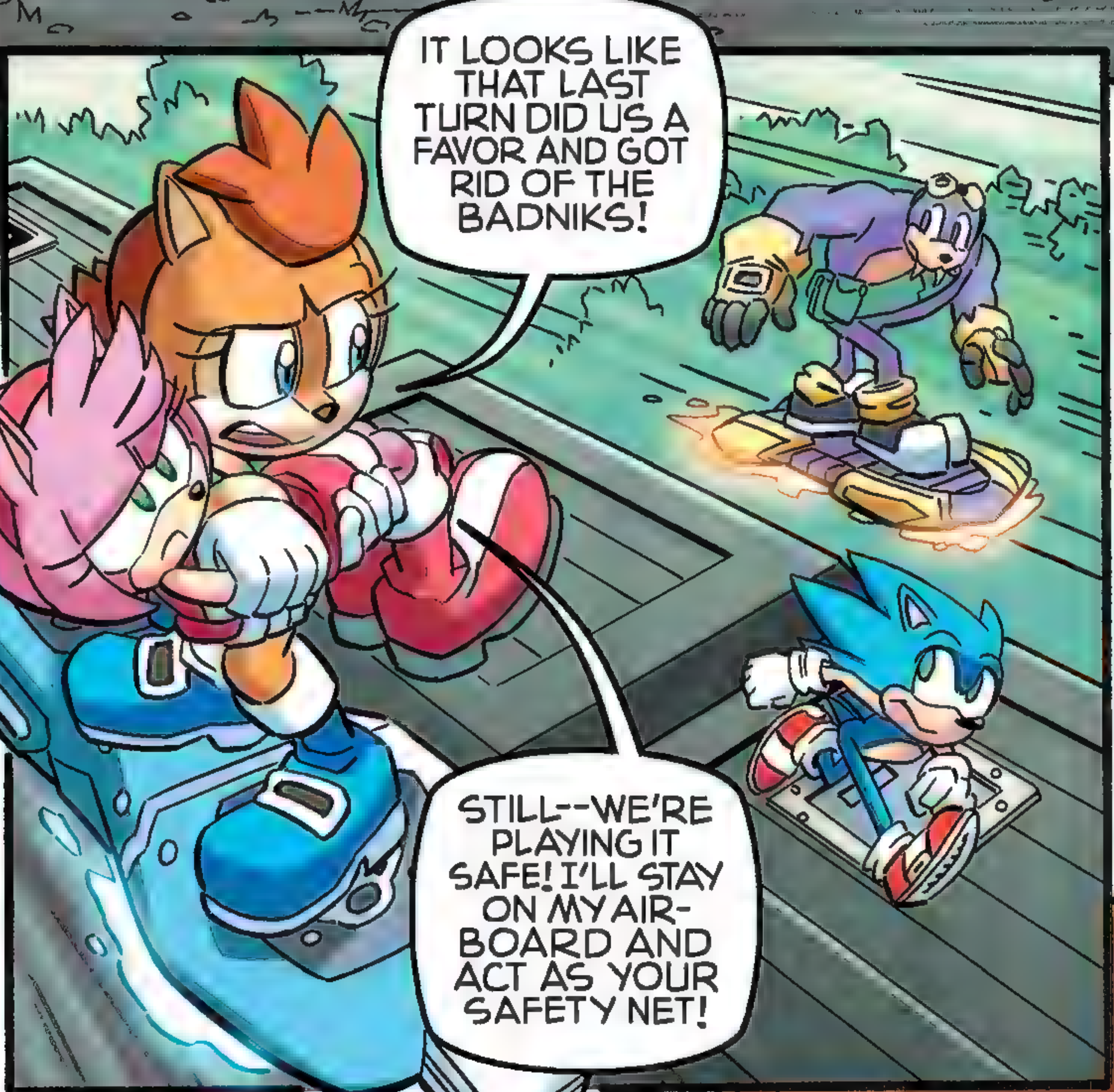
LET'S SAVE THE REST OF THE HERO WORSHIP FOR THE VICTORY PARTY. WE NEED TO FIND CHUCK AND THAT OTHER PROFESSOR GUY.

I'VE GOT AN IDEA. ROTOR, HOLD YOUR AIRBOARD STEADY.



STICK WITH SAL AND ROTE. I NEED TO MOVE FAST.

HMPH! FINE!



IT LOOKS LIKE THAT LAST TURN DID US A FAVOR AND GOT RID OF THE BADNIKS!

STILL--WE'RE PLAYING IT SAFE! I'LL STAY ON MY AIR-BOARD AND ACT AS YOUR SAFETY NET!



I'LL WEAKEN THE HATCH WITH MY OMNI-TOOL! THEN AMY CAN BUST IT OPEN!

KAY! MAN-- I HOPE BUNNIE AND THE OTHERS ARE HAVING AN EASIER TIME!



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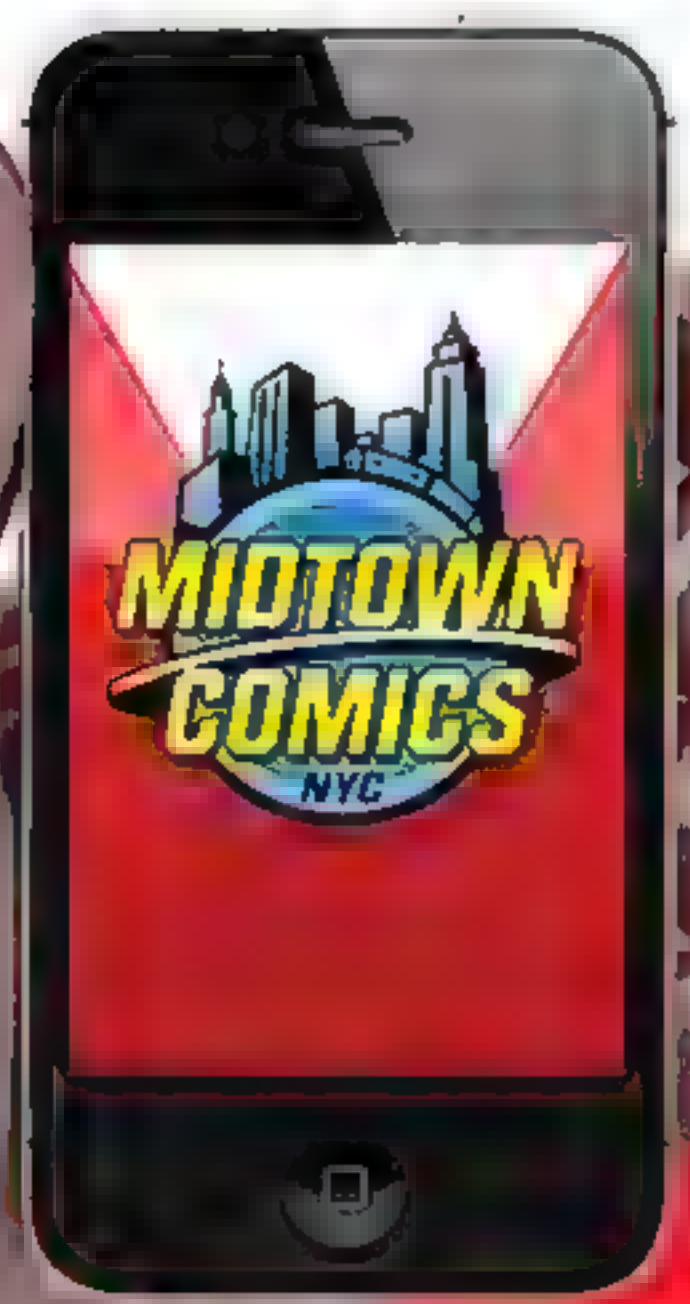
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CLANK!

THE PROFESSORS
BETTER BE IN THIS
CAR...

KATHUNK!

WHAT WAS
THAT?!

I DON'T
KNOW.

NICOLE SAID ALL THE
PASSAGES BETWEEN
CARS WERE LOCKED
DOWN. MAYBE THE
STRAIN IS STARTING TO
TEAR THE TRAIN
APART?

C'MON,
PROFESSORS!
C'MON, NO
BADNIKS!

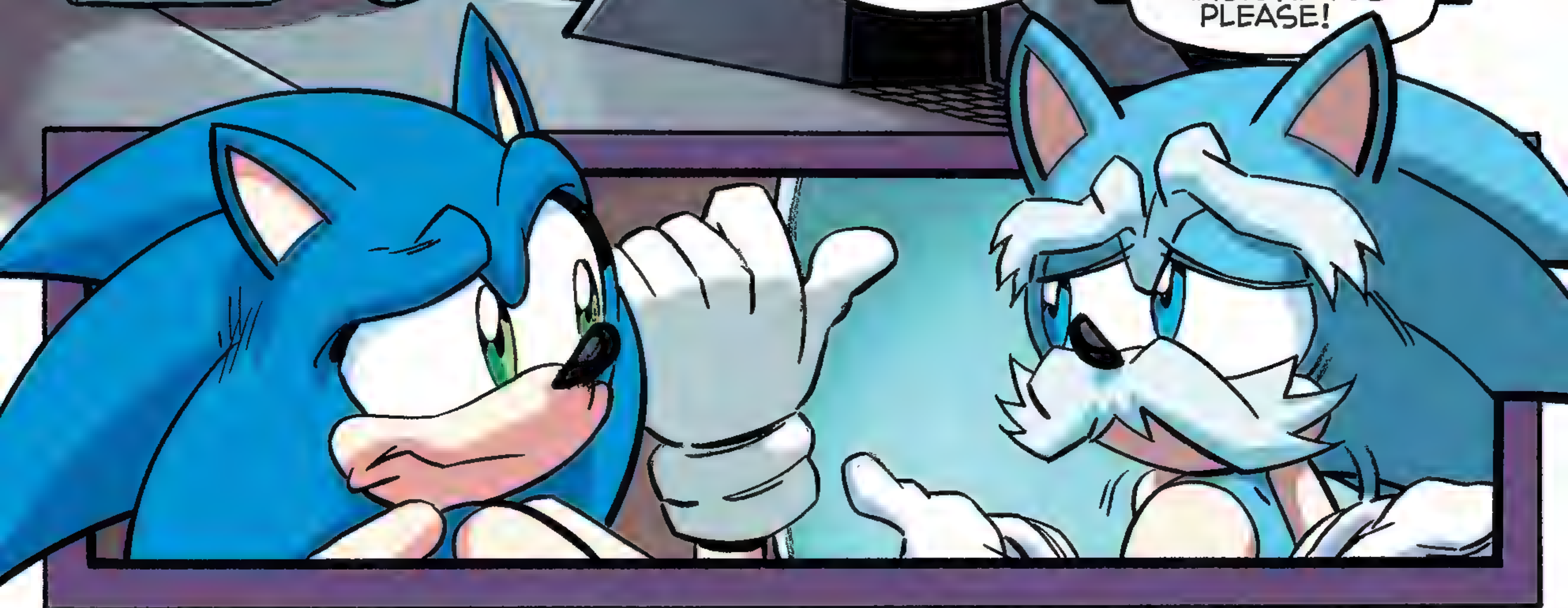
UNCLE
CHUCK!
FINALLY!

KLANG!

SONNY-BOY!
I KNEW YOU'D
COME FOR US!

HMM?
ARE YOU THE
PORTER?

I'LL HAVE YOU
KNOW I AM *QUITE*
DISPLEASED WITH
THE SERVICE ON
THIS TRAIN. I WILL
HAVE A CUCUMBER
SANDWICH POST-
HASTE, IF YOU
PLEASE!





HANG TIGHT, BRAINIACS. I'LL FIGURE OUT THE BEST WAY TO BUST YOU OUT.

HURRY, SONIC!

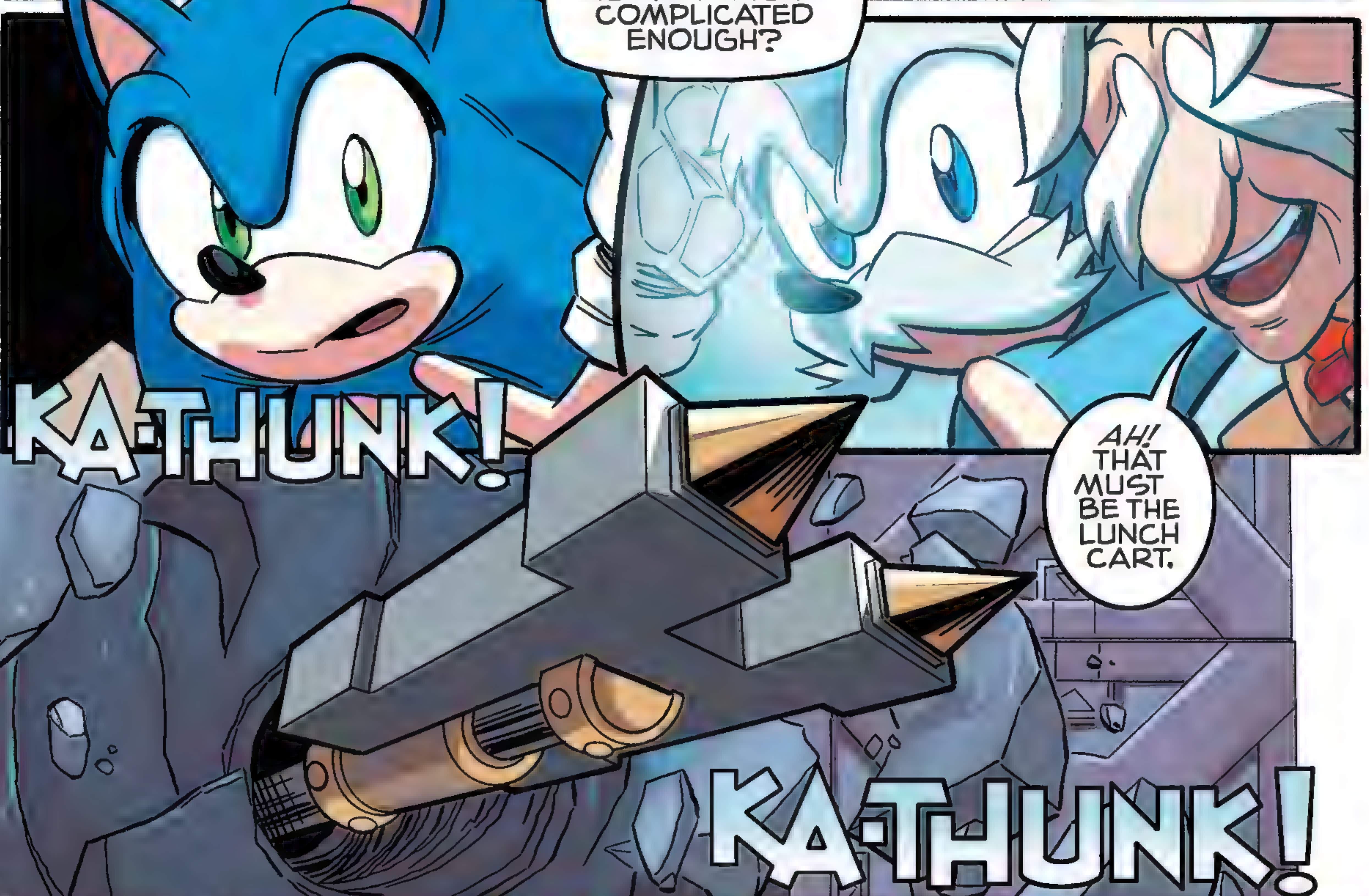
I KNOW, I KNOW. THIS TRAIN IS OUT OF CONTROL.



NO, I--WELL, YES, THAT. BUT IT'S ABOUT THE PLANET! DILLON'S RESEARCH--THE GAS SAMPLES I WAS TAKING IN WOOD ZONE*--THEY ALL TIE TOGETHER INTO SOMETHING **BIGGER!**

SERIOUSLY? THE WORLD SHATTERING APART ISN'T COMPLICATED ENOUGH?

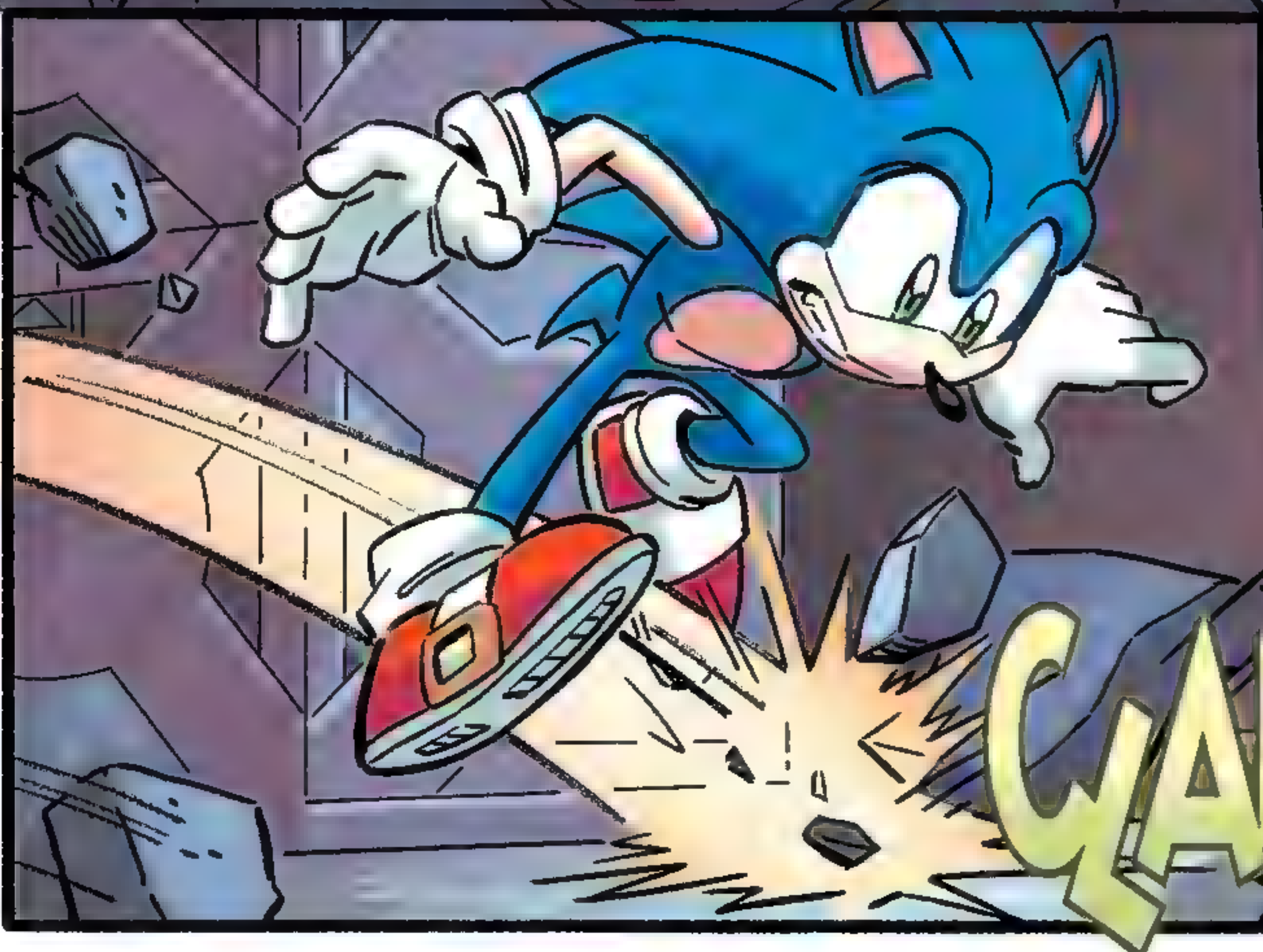
*STH#254.



KA-THUNK!

AH! THAT MUST BE THE LUNCH CART.

KA-THUNK!



QANG!



GONNA HAVE TO PUT THAT LUNCH ORDER ON HOLD, PROFESSOR.

NEXT TIME--
SONIC VS. E-106 ETA
Until then, don't miss **SONIC UNIVERSE**, the **SONIC SUPER SPECIAL MAGAZINE**, **SONIC SUPER DIGEST**, and the **Graphic Novel Library!**

SONIC-GRAMS



WRITE TO US @: SONIC GRAMS C/O ARCHIE COMIC PUBLICATIONS, INC.
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Dear 'Sonic Grams,'
Hi everyone! I'll have the usual!

One of our regulars I see!

I wanted to say that I am currently loving the new comic universe, and I love all the new designs!

Happy to hear it! We love 'em too!

Everything is getting so exciting that I am almost literally on the edge of my seat waiting for the next comic!! Also I loved how in 256 Sally and Amy teamed up to fight Metal Sonic. I love both Sally and Amy, so every time I see them working together it makes me smile! I'd love to see them interacting more!

Your wishes will be granted now that the Freedom Fighters have reassembled!

I noticed in 254 that when the ground cracked open and Sonic inhaled the purple gasses, he seemed to be making growling noises. And then Uncle Chuck mentioned going to Spagonia. Could this possibly mean that we will be seeing the Werehog soon?

...Maayyybbee...

And finally, I know someone already asked this, but can you guys please bring in Honey the Cat? She would make such an awesome edition to the team!

I hope you all have a great day!
Sincerely,
Brittney N. sent to
Sonic@ArchieComics.com

P.S. Can you guys tell Amy and Sally I said "Hi"?

I think she has a fighting chance! Thanks for the letter, Brittney!

See y'all next month!

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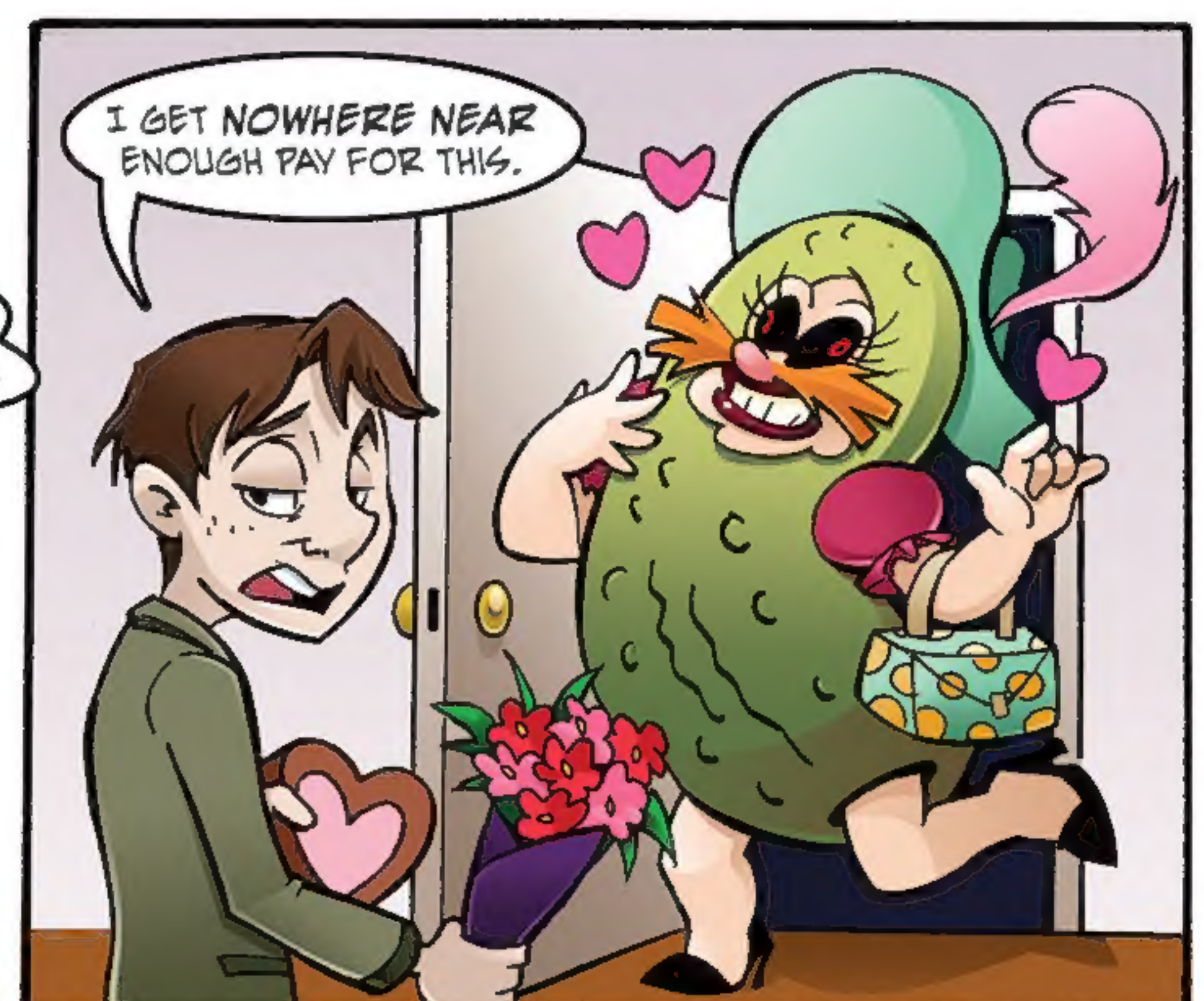
POOR MUTTSKI... HE MUST BE WORRIED SICK. WHAT ABOUT YOUR ASSISTANT, DILLON? WHAT'S HIS FACE...?



Q. CUMBER GHERKIN. AND BEFORE WE WERE KIDNAPPED, I HAD HIM CHECKING IN ON MY NEW BOO.

"BOO?" YOU HAVE A GIRLFRIEND?

QUITE! WE MET ON A DATING SITE... SHE WAS QUITE AN EYEFUL...



I GET NOWHERE NEAR ENOUGH PAY FOR THIS.



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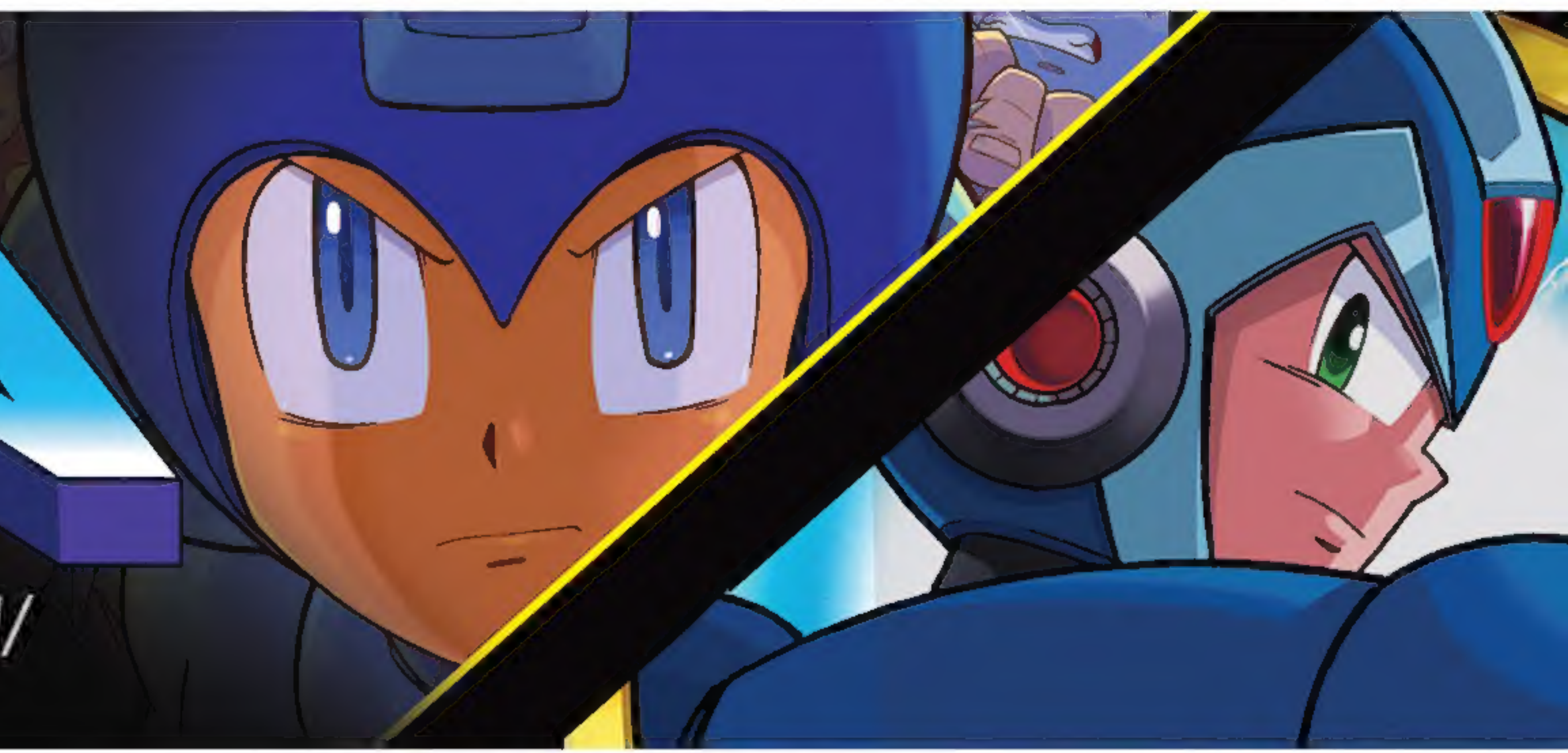
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